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Colonies

General 18

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British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1877–78

Colonies General

18

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

FORTY-FIVE VOLUMES.

— (11.) —

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

Session

8 *February* —— 14 *August* 1877.

VOL. LIX.

1877.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1877.

FORTY-FIVE VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

ELEVENTH VOLUME.

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RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1875–76 AND '77.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1877.

LONDON:
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NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

Governor SIR JOHN GLOVER, G.C.M.G., to The EARL of CARNARVON.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
December 27, 1876.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1875, and have much pleasure in stating that the condition of the Colony is prosperous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

No. 2.

GOVERNOR LEFROY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Bermuda,
May 3, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1876, which I am precluded from discussing at any length by the nearness of my departure from these Islands. I will therefore only submit the following brief observations:—

1. *Revenue.*

The duty on spirits was raised last year to 4*s.* a gallon, and that on malt liquor to 20*s.* a hogshead, both of them higher amounts than they have ever stood at before. Notwithstanding, the total revenue from these sources only increased from 10,368*l.* to 11,246*l.*, or seven per cent. This is attributable principally to the large stocks on hand, the increase was principally on the last quarter of the year, and there is no reason to doubt that if continued at the same amounts another year the revenue will be more largely benefited.

41843. Wt. 4275.

BERMUDA.

The ad valorem duties at 5 per cent. produced 9,293*l.* being a very small sum, less than last year.

The total revenue was swelled by the payment into the Treasury for general purposes of the proceeds of a sum of 2,000*l.* invested in 1866 for building a lighthouse on David's Head, amounting to 2,871*l.* Only 644*l.* has been spent on the lighthouse, which will cost about 1,500*l.*

With this aid the total revenue from all colonial sources, amounting to 27,374*l.*, exceeded the expenditure by only 1,586*l.*, and it is therefore apparent that without it the revenue would have been in deficit.

2. *Expenditure.*

The expenditure was 25,788*l.*, almost identical with that of 1875.

3. *Exports.*

The value of the agricultural exports of the Colony was 71,497*l.* which is less than it was in 1874. On comparing the average of the three years 1867–8–9 with the three years 1874–5–6, the increase is from a value of 23,348*l.*, to a value of 69,911*l.*, a sufficiently remarkable growth in seven years. The quantities of the two staples, onions and potatoes, grown in 1876 was less than in 1875. The only considerable increase is in the growth of tomatoes, of which 816 tons were exported, almost entirely to the New York market.

The actual quantities and values for the last three years have been as follows :—

	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Arrowroot - -	11,608 lbs.	507	37,003 lbs.	2,375	45,520 lbs.	—
Onions - -	3,479·8 tons.	48,013	4,180·8 tons.	20,275	3,701·8 tons.	30,028
Potatoes - -	1,275·5 tons.	19,569	2,083 tons.	26,493	1,618·7 tons.	26,912
Tomatoes - -	80,671 boxes.	11,527	99,805 boxes.	9,329	152,329 boxes.	12,334
Other produce -	367 pks.	145	—	—	1,210 pks.	287
Total - -	—	79,765	—	58,472	—	71,497

Tomatoes are exported in boxes containing 12 or 13 lbs. each There is a slight tendency to try the market with other than the staple products, entered as packages of fruit and vegetables, but the capabilities of the Island are but little developed in this direction, for reasons mentioned in my last report.

4. *Registrar General's Report.*

The report of the Registrar General of births, deaths, and marriages, for the year 1876, is not yet ready for transmission, but the following abstract has been communicated by that officer:—

—	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	White.	Colored.	White.	Colored.	White.	Colored.
Estimated civil population on 31 Dec.	5,003	8,134	5,038	8,264	5,092	8,326
Births, civil - - -	149	279	139	334	151	281
Ratio of births per 1000 - -	29·78	34·42	27·59	40·41	29·65	33·74
Births out of wedlock - -	6	114	3	94	6	97
Still births - - -	6	20	4	14	5	16
Ratio of illegitimate births -	5·42	22·74	1·35	27·01	2·91	33·74
Marriages - - - -	47	58	39	68	*43	68
Deaths - - - -	160	180	129	204	112	219
Deaths above 75 - - -	24	8	19	17	17	13
Deaths in Army and Navy -	40	—	25	—	16	—

5. *Marine Slip.*

The number of vessels taken up for repair on the marine slip, St. George's, was again small in 1876, viz.: six British, four American, of a total tonnage of 3,523 tons.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. LEFROY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

* In addition to these numbers there were 21 mixed marriages; the men being white and generally soldiers and discharged men.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 3.

Acting Governor MITCHELL to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

SIR, Government House, Belize, 5th February 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Colonial Blue Book for the year 1876, and to report thereon as follows:

Taxes, Fees, &c.

2. The taxes are identical with those of 1875. A schedule of the fees taken in every department, re-arranged for facility of reference, and distinguishing those retained for the private use of the officials who receive them from those paid into the public treasury, has been printed for insertion in this year's Blue Book.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of 1876 has fallen short of that of 1875 by 1,675*l.*, and this without any alteration having been made in the scale of taxation.

4. I attribute this decrease chiefly to the stagnation in the mahogany trade having caused a smaller sum to remain available for the purchase of luxuries. I find that the imports of tobacco, cigars, wine, tea, cocoa, and refined sugar, all of which are charged with a special rate of duty, have diminished by from 25 to 60 per. cent.; while the entries of unrated articles, amongst which are to be found all the necessaries of life, have been within 3½ per cent. as great as those of the previous year.

5. Some part in the falling off in the revenue is also due to the still unsettled political condition of the neighbouring Republic of Honduras, the inhabitants of which are, in more peaceful times, large customers of the Belize "stores."

6. The total expenditure has been less during 1876 by 4,225*l.* than it was during 1875. A saving, more or less important, was effected under nearly every "head of service," the largest being 1,971*l.* on military account, due to the fact that the Orange Walk defences were finished during the first half of the year, except some masonry revetment work, and that those of Corozal could not be commenced until their site and extent had been finally settled and approved by the Secretary of State. 718*l.* less was claimed by exporters as drawback of duties; 1,076*l.* was saved in the Department of Public Works, 222*l.* on lighthouses, and smaller sums under various other heads.

7. On the other hand there was an increase of expenditure under 11 "heads of service;" the purchase of a new steam dredger caused an apparent increase of 1,398*l.*; this, however, may be looked upon rather as a judicious investment of capital than as an addition to the annual expenses of the Colony. A very expensive prosecution of an Indian resident on the extreme western frontier for the murder of a man of the same tribe caused an increase of 121*l.* in the judicial expenditure.

8. I find that, after deducting the items "military" and "drawbacks of duty," neither of which can be said to be under the practical control of the spending departments, there was a net decrease of expenditure amounting to 1,376*l.* during the past, as compared with the previous year, the figures being 27,628*l.* for 1875, and 26,252*l.* for 1876.

Public Debt.

9. A sum total of but 5,041*l.* remains under this heading; that amount forms the last portion of the loan of 21,400*l.* raised for the improvement of the south side of the town of Belize, 1,600*l.* of which is attributable to a re-issue of debentures during 1867. To meet this debt, the proceeds of a special tax of one per cent. on all imports are hypothecated, and, for the last three years, a vote of 1,000*l.* has been taken annually in aid of this tax. The sum of 1,355*l.* is in the sinking fund, and the redemption of the remaining debentures as they become due is amply provided for.

10. The immigration debt was extinguished during the year, and a small balance remaining in its sinking fund was transferred to the general revenue.

11. To show what a steady effort has been made to extricate the Colony from the debt which was pressing upon its resources, I may here recall to mind that, on the 31st of December 1868 the gross indebtedness was 50,165*l.*, on the 31st of December 1876 it was but 5,041*l.*, in neither case taking account of the sinking fund, indicating that 45,124*l.* have been paid off in eight years from an average gross income of 41,126*l.*

12. It may, perhaps, serve to illustrate the steadiness of this effort if I append the result of the annual account of liabilities and assets during the period in question. It stands thus:—

Date.	Deficit.	Surplus.
	£	£
31st December 1868 - -	21,970	—
„ 1869 - -	18,891	—
„ 1870 - -	18,273	—
„ 1871 - -	6,418	—
„ 1872 - -	—	3,347
„ 1873 - -	—	19,307
„ 1874 - -	—	19,602
„ 1875 - -	—	23,673
„ 1876 - -	—	25,366

showing a difference in eight years of 47,336*l.*

BRITISH HONDURAS.

13. Only those who have learned by experience the difficulties which attend retrenchment in a small and not particularly prosperous Colony, can appreciate the full meaning of these figures.

Military Expenditure.

14. The Senior Commissariat Officer returns 12,626*l.* as the total cost of the detachment of two companies of Her Majesty's troops serving in the Colony during 1876. Of this amount the Colonial Treasurer repaid, in quarterly instalments, 5,000*l.*, leaving the net cost to the Home Government, 7,626*l.*, being less by 164*l.* than in 1875.

15. The additional expenses paid by the Colony were 1,622*l.* for maintenance of barracks, transports of troops, pay of acting engineer, &c., thus making a sum total of 6,622*l.* of Colonial as against 7,626*l.* of Imperial military expenditure; the corresponding figures in 1875 were 9,159*l.* and 7,790*l.*

16. The semi-military force of 15 mounted scouts for service on the frontier was paid for by the Colony under the head of service "police."

Legislation, &c.

17. Thirteen Ordinances were passed during the year, two of which were for the appropriation of money for the public service and two were "To remove doubts as to the validity of marriages "already solemnized, to provide further facilities for contracting "marriage, and otherwise to amend the Marriage Law." Of these last one has been confirmed by Her Majesty. It is in contemplation to re-consider the whole law relating to marriage in the Colony, and to consolidate the various statutes into one.

18. Another Ordinance had for its object the opening of the hospital to labourers and others able to pay a small sum towards the cost of their treatment, but who, previously, might have been refused admission on the ground of their not being absolute paupers. The other Ordinances were not of general interest.

19. A consolidation and reprint of the laws of the Colony will commence in 1877. This will be, if properly carried out, a work of great utility and of enduring value.

20. There were no proclamations issued during 1876.

Public Works.

21. In consequence of the absence, during nearly the whole year, of the Surveyor, no works of importance were commenced. At Orange Walk the Magistrates' house, court house, gaol, and police station were finished and occupied; their total cost was 2,426*l.*, and the result, whether as regards appearance, utility, convenience, or economy of expenditure, is very satisfactory, and reflects credit on Mr. Von Ohlafen, the Acting Engineer, Northern District.

22. A steam dredger and three mud scows were constructed by the Works Department, the machinery for the former was made in England by Messrs. Hunter and English. The total cost was 1,665*l.*, being 1,008*l.* for machinery, including freight, 343*l.* for the hull of the dredger, and 314*l.* for the mud barges. The work of deepening the bar of Belize inner harbour, for which this dredger was procured, is being proceeded with.

23. Considerable improvements have been made in the gaol, the female prison being now entirely separated from the male, and the former women's portion of the main building converted into very commodious quarters for untried prisoners, at a cost of 287*l.*

24. The council chamber has been repaired and painted, the north side canal re-staked and dug out, the stone floor of the market raised and levelled on a bed of concrete, and the various public buildings, except the court house, kept in good repair.

25. As regards this last-mentioned edifice, the dilapidated condition of which has so often been reported, steps are being taken to erect a new and substantial brick building on a better site than the present one, for which the Public Works Department of Jamaica has, at the instance of the Secretary of State, undertaken to prepare plans.

26. The Hanlover Road, the only communication with the back country by land, has received considerable repairs during the year.

27. The total expenditure on public works, exclusive of cost of superintendence, was during 1876, 3,879*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; this includes 1,125*l.* at Orange Walk.

Civil Establishment.

28. The changes during the year were as follows:

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor went home, on account of ill-health, on the 18th of March; the Colonial Secretary administered the Government from that date until the end of the year; Mr. Graham, the Treasurer, acting for Captain Mitchell as Colonial Secretary.

29. Commander Richards, R.N., who held the post of Private Secretary to Major Mundy, left with his chief, and Mr. Pickwoad became the Administrator's Private Secretary.

30. Mr. Adolphus, the Northern District Magistrate, was promoted in November to be Chief Magistrate of the Gambia; he is succeeded by Mr. B. A. Cody, late Treasurer of Labuan.

31. Messrs. Cox, the Coroner, Blakely, the Surveyor of Public Works, and Hunter, the Public Medical Officer, were absent on leave for the whole or part of the year, their posts being respectively temporarily filled by the Postmaster, the Acting Colonial Secretary, and by Mr. Frederick Gabb, M.R.C.S.E.

Pensions.

32. Mr. Corner, late Chief Justice of the Colony, who was in receipt of a pension of 250*l.* a year, died in England, on the

BRITISH HONDURAS.

27th of February. This amount had been deducted from his successor's salary, which, from the above date, was restored to 1,000*l.* per annum. No other alterations took place on this list.

Councils.

33. The Executive Council was called together 19 times. Its members were unchanged until November, when Major Turton, 2nd West India Regiment, left the Colony, and was succeeded by Captain Des Barres of the same corps. No other changes took place during 1876.

34. The Legislative Council was in session from the 20th of June to the 14th of December. It held 22 meetings, two of which were merely for adjournment. Thirteen Ordinances were passed. At the sittings of the Council out of a total of nine, five official, four unofficial members, there was an average attendance of 4·015 of the official, 2·55 of the unofficial element. There were two deaths of councillors during the year; Mr. Martinez died on the 21st of February, Mr. Blockley on the 16th of August. Their vacancies were filled by the appointments of Messrs. Arthur and Mutrie.

Foreign Consuls.

35. Mr. McDonald, Consul for Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, returned from England on the 11th of April. The duties of those Consulates had been performed during his leave, he is a Legislative Councillor, by Mr. Alexander Williamson. Mr. Plutarco F. Perera was provisionally continued as Consul for Nicaragua from the 10th of August, at the request of the Minister for that Republic at the Court of St. James'. Mr. Kindred, the Austro-Hungarian Consul, returned to Belize on the 12th of September. Mr. Bernard Cramer resumed his duties as German Consul, which, during his absence, had been performed by Mr. Helmrich, on the 11th of November.

Population.

36. In the absence of any system of registration, it is impossible to do more than conjecture what may be the fluctuations of population between the census-taking years. In 1871 there was a total of 24,710, 12,603 males, 12,107 females. The returns of baptisms, marriages, and burials made by the clergy are utterly insufficient, at any rate as regards the two last, to base any estimate upon. The baptisms may, approximately, represent the total births, inasmuch as that is the only ceremony to which all, Indians, Spaniards, Creoles, and Europeans alike, attach much importance. These were returned in 1872 as 846, in 1873 as 744, in 1874 as 396 (returns incomplete), in 1875 as 855, and in 1876 as 1,045.

37. I believe that the Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the Colony are on the increase, the constant revolutionary troubles

of the neighbouring States, with their accompaniment of corvées and forced military service having driven many across our borders.

Ecclesiastical.

38. The disestablished Church of England in British Honduras is struggling against many difficulties; the one Clergyman is overworked, and, hitherto, limited means have prevented its securing the services of a second, notwithstanding the offer made by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel of 100*l.* a year in aid of what the Church here could afford to give. By great exertions a sum of 400*l.* has been collected as the nucleus of a sustentation fund, the two churches have been kept in repair, and the Rector and other church officers paid.

39. The eight Jesuit Priests who form the staff of the Roman Catholic Church have, as usual, been unremitting in their exertions, and, I believe, successful in the results they have obtained; their schools have certainly improved wonderfully during 1876, but this will be reported under another head. A very nice church and presbytery have been built at Orange Walk, where the Roman Catholic element predominates.

40. The Presbyterian Minister is about to retire, he is the last of the State paid clergy in Honduras. The small congregation has, by dint of great efforts, managed to secure to his successor a similar stipend to that enjoyed by him, 300*l.* a year.

41. There are four Wesleyan Ministers in the Colony, one of whom, however, is destined for Ruatan. They report an increase to their congregations. A very neat small chapel has been built during 1876 on the north side of the river to supply the wants of the Wesleyans in that part of the town of Belize. The Baptists have two Ministers in the Colony.

Educational.

42. The school returns show a small decrease, both in total numbers on the books and in average attendance; but this decrease is only apparent, as all the schools embraced in the 1876 return have been open continuously during the year; whereas in 1875 two were closed within the first three months and have not been reopened since. Deducting the aggregate of these two schools, the return for 1875 will show a total on the books of 1,614 and an average attendance of 960; the totals for 1876 being 1,608 and 1,045. The Government grant in aid amounted to 961*l.* 16*s.*, the school fees to 314*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, and the total cost of the schools to 1,522*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

43. The result of the examinations held at the close of the year was satisfactory, especially as regards three of the schools, all Roman Catholic; viz., the Girls' School in Belize and the mixed schools at Corozal and Orange Walk, the last of which was only opened in January 1876. The Catholic schools have, in past years, been decidedly below the level of those established under the auspices of other religious bodies, and that they have now

BRITISH HONDURAS.

been brought up to that level is chiefly, I believe, due to the efforts of three English priests who have come to the Colony.

44. When the extent of the country, the absence of means of communication, and the nomadic tendencies of the labouring classes are all considered, it is not surprising that the educational condition of Honduras is behind that of the more thickly populated West Indian Islands; but I was not prepared for one of the results of the annexed comparative statement, compiled from the most recent general return in my possession.

STATISTICAL TABLES relating to the COLONIAL and other POSSESSIONS of the UNITED KINGDOM, Part XIV., 1868, 1869, 1870, issued 1875.

Colony.	Proportion of Scholars to Total Population being 1 in every	Cost per Scholar to Public Revenue.	Per-centage of Revenue spent on Education.	Revenue collected per Head of Population.	Average Daily Wage of predial Labourer.
		s. d.		*s. d.*	*s. d.*
St. Christopher -	7·16	5 11·23	3·71	22 4·02	1 0
Montserrat -	7·37	—	—	11 9·52	0 9
Nevis - -	8·81	1 5·94	1·13	15 0·58	1 0
Antigua - -	9·32	4 6·11	2·12	22 9·32	0 10
Turks Islands -	10·51	31 11·78	5·78	52 6·87	2 0
St. Vincent -	10·94	5 3·64	3·09	15 8·12	1 0
Virgin Islands -	11·00	3 11·60	5·82	6 2·29	1 3
Barbados - -	12·52	8 5·82	5·21	12 11·84	0 8
Bahamas - -	12·54	16 5·79	5·52	23 8·78	1 9
Demerara - -	12·79	22 6·83	4·99	35 3·91	2 6
St. Lucia - -	13·62	4 1·54	3·15	9 7·63	1 6
Jamaica - -	14·13	5 1·58	2·08	17 4·87	1 6
Dominica - -	14·44	7 11·64	4·77	11 6·82	0 9
Grenada - -	15·93	10 7·26	5·53	12 0·32	0 9
Honduras - -	16·25	13 1·89	3·06	26 5·36	2 0

NOTE.—*Tobago* is omitted, the return not giving the number of scholars, and *Trinidad* also, as it is believed that other than state aided means must be in use there for educating the masses, the return granted only showing 1 in 31 as the proportion of scholars to population, and the amount spent on education as 1,095*l.*, or ·046 of revenue.

45. I had previously believed that our system of giving grants in aid was, if not a very efficient, at least a very economical one; and yet it is plain that in only three West Indian Colonies, Turks Islands, Demerara, and the Bahamas, is more expended on each child under instruction than in this Colony.

46. Efficient inspection, payment by results, and compulsory attendance are all most desirable means to attain the end in view, but the first is beyond our present income, without it the second would be unattainable, and as regards the third, it could only be applied to the towns, and would then, I fear, contribute to increase the predilection of the lower orders for a "bush" life which forms such an obstacle to the advance of civilization in Central America.

47. For the present, therefore, we can only do our utmost to encourage the establishment of schools wherever village communities are formed, and trust to such local supervision as the

district magistrates can exercise to obtain a fair return for the amount allowed as capitation fees.

Imports and Exports.

48. The general stagnation of trade was felt in Honduras, but not to the extent I had anticipated, the aggregate of imports and exports being of 369,823*l.* value, the average of the 10 years 1867–76 being 382,064*l.*

49. The imports amounted to 163,403*l.*, those of 1875 having been 175,321*l.*, the average of the decennial period 180,591*l.* The falling off is in the trade with the United States, and this is easily accounted for thus: the mahogany cutting houses import the supplies of provisions for their gangs from the States, and 1876 was, excepting 1870, the worst year for this trade that has been known. Goods brought from the United Kingdom were valued at 99,946*l.*, being more by 4,910*l.* than those imported during 1875, but less by 3,655*l.* than the average of the decade ending in 1876.

50. The exports were of the local value, calculated on the average of Belize prices during the year, of 206,420*l.*, against 202,512*l.* in 1875, the average for the past 10 years having been 201,473*l.* Of the 1876 exports 104,320*l.* represented the value of the actual products of the Colony, 92,799*l.* having been the amount in 1875, and the average of nine years, during which the distinction between colonial and extra-colonial produce has been observed, 98,335*l.*

51. Mahogany, heretofore our chief source of wealth, was during 1876 of so little value as not to repay the expense of cutting; and never, probably, since the occupation of the Colony, with the solitary exception of the year 1870, was so little of this wood "got out." Of logwood, on the other hand, owing to the exceptionally high prices of 1875, more was sent home during 1876 than has been recorded since 1864; and it is owing to this fortunate circumstance that I am not now reporting a serious falling off in the value of the exported produce of the Colony. Sugar is still on its trial in Honduras; the quantity sent away remains nearly the same, 2,017 tons, as compared with 2,315 in 1875, and 1,876 tons the average of five years ending in 1876. The planters have had much to contend against; they have had to gain experience, to organise communications, and to discover amongst the various systems of other countries the one best adapted to this soil, climate, and people, or, failing this discovery, to invent one to suit their peculiarities. Then, unhappily, when most of these difficulties had been mitigated, came a period of low prices, which even the best established sugar producing Colonies found it hard to live through. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that one fine estate has been abandoned, and that the proprietors of others are so disheartened as to contemplate a similar course. The recent rise in the price of sugar will, I hope, avert this catastrophe. The richness of the soil and its peculiar fitness for the growth of the sugar cane has never been questioned; land is

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cheap and intersected by navigable streams, the labourers are becoming more accustomed to agriculture, the mechanics to the care of machinery, and I believe most fully that, if the planters can only tide over the next few years, an unqualified success will crown their efforts and attract to this fine country the capital that alone is wanting to develop its manifold resources and convert it into a second Demerara or Trinidad.

Shipping.

52. The aggregate tonnage of the 318 sailing vessels that entered during the year was 26,891, that of the 326 which arrived during 1875 was 24,208. Of the former 192 were British, including 37 which came in ballast; the remaining 126 carried a foreign flag, and of them but 91 were loaded. The total number of ships propelled by sails which cleared in 1876 was 331, and they measured in all 26,590 tons. During the previous year 345 vessels, with a tonnage amounting to 26,248, left the Colony. 212 of the clearances issued during the year under report were to English vessels, 194 laden, 18 empty, 119 to foreigners of which 102 carried freight. The monthly visits of the Royal Mail Packet were the only occasions during 1876 of a steam vessel being either entered or cleared.

Grants of Land.

53. Thirty-one grants, conveying a total of 138$\frac{1}{6}$ acres, were made during the year, being the same number as were issued during 1875, but the total acreage was, in that year, 221. All were acquired by purchase at prices varying from 10*s.* for country land to 7*l.* for town building lots per acre. The revenue derived from grants, leases, and licenses, amounted to 476*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with 920*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* in the preceding year, a difference in favour of 1875 of 443*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, caused in a great measure by the final payment of the 10 years' instalments on the purchase from the Crown of the large estate of All Pines, having fallen in that year. The heavy and continuous rains have also contributed to reduce the land revenue by preventing the execution of the surveys which must precede sales of Crown land. The salaries and departmental expenses were 446*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* in 1875, 531*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* in 1876.

Gaols and Prisoners.

54. Six hundred and seventy-seven persons were committed during the year to the four prisons of the Colony, viz.: to Belize common gaol 166, to Corozal district prison 334, to Orange Walk district prison 108, and to All Pines 69. The corresponding numbers in 1875 were 151, 343, 167, and 115, and the total 776.

55. The three district prisons are used for the confinement of those committed either by the Supreme Court at Corozal, or by the district magistrates, for three months' imprisonment or less. All other prisoners are confined in the common gaol of Belize, where something approaching penal labour and disciplinary treat-

ment can be enforced. So long as it is necessary, as at present, to use prisoners to do all the scavenger work of the town, and much of the heavy labour in the public works and roads department, so long will it be impossible to bring the system up to the English mark; but, as yet, the day seems far distant when these services can be dispensed with, at present no wages would induce men to perform the kind of work which has become identified in their minds with prison labour, and is, therefore, considered degrading. There is, moreover, a constant tendency on the part of the labourers to avoid all kinds of heavy, monotonous employments which, failing them, are relegated to prisoners, and thenceforth are tabooed by the force of the public opinion of the labouring classes.

56. For stated portions of the first part of their sentences, if of one year or upwards, prisoners are placed in the first class and are kept at strictly penal labour within the gaol, such as stone-breaking and mud-digging, and for three and a half hours in each day are at shot drill. The remainder are second class prisoners, and may legally be employed either within or without the walls of the gaol during working hours, lasting, with one hour's interval for breakfast, from 6 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. They are exempt from shot drill during working hours while they remain in the class, but may, for misconduct, be sent back to the first class, or may be punished by an extra hour's labour at shot drill for a period not exceeding three days, without suffering class degradation.

57. There is great difficulty in obtaining good overseers for the outdoor gangs, although the pay is from 4*l.* to 5*l.* a month. It is almost impossible to prevent the prisoners, when working in the town, from receiving food, drink, and tobacco from their relations and friends. This is, in itself, a great hindrance to the maintenance of discipline, and, notwithstanding the strict search that is made at the gaol gates, prohibited articles are frequently introduced and discovered in the possession of first class prisoners. The mark system continues to work well; about two thirds of those undergoing sentences of one year and upwards obtain a remission of their sentences by its operation; it has not been found practicable to extend it to those imprisoned for less than one year.

58. No attempt at education has yet been made. I think that if a suitable teacher could be procured, a matter of some difficulty where teaching power is at a premium, the after supper hour, from 6 to 7, might be devoted to this purpose as regards prisoners confined for over six months.

59. The religious instruction of the inmates of the gaol has been left, since the disestablishment of the Anglican Church, to voluntary efforts. A Protestant service organized (and conducted in turn) by the Ministers of the Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Baptist bodies, takes place every Sunday. A short service is also held weekly by a Priest of the Roman Catholic faith. A gentleman high in the civil service of the Colony has, during 1876, devoted a portion of each Sunday to catechizing and instructing

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a voluntary class of from 14 to 15 prisoners. The single Clergyman of the Church of England has his time too much taken up by the work of two parishes, the conduct of three full services, and the supervision of two Sunday Schools, to allow of his extending his ministrations to the gaol. I may add that only duly authorised persons may visit the gaol for this or any other purpose.

60. The health of the prisoners has been very good, only one death, that of an Indian from pneumonia, having occurred; the infirmary has been empty during a considerable portion of the year. The dietary scale appears to be sufficient; salt fish and plantains compose the two meals on five days, beef, soup, and biscuit on the other two days of the week. The prisoners are accurately weighed on entering and on leaving, and the appended return would seem to indicate that a fair medium scale of diet has been arrived at.

ANALYSIS of the DIFFERENT WEIGHTS on entering and leaving the BELIZE COMMON GAOL of 132 PRISONERS discharged during the year 1876, none being under 18 Years of Age.

Actual Period of Imprisonment.	Gained Weight.							Lost Weight.							Neither lost nor gained.	Total.
	No.	Weight.		Average.		Greatest Gain.		No.	Weight.		Average.		Greatest Loss.			
		lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.		lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.		
One year and upwards	11	90	8	8	3	17	0	3	46	0	15	5	28	0	—	14
One month to 12 months	24	168	0	7	0	30	0	19	153	0	8	1	17	0	3	46
One day to 28 days -	20	89	0	4	7	10	0	40	271	0	6	12	14	0	12	72
Total - -	55	347	8	6	5	—	—	62	470	0	7	9	—	—	15	132

REMARKS.

One man lost 28 lbs., he was very ill with lung disease during the whole period of his imprisonment, and but for the unremitting attention and constant nourishment he received must have died, which he certainly would have but for his fortunate incarceration.

Nearly every man who lost weight considerably was a soldier. The man who gained 30 lbs. was a Spanish half breed, 37 years of age. A Jamaica negro, aged 30, gained 29 lbs.

Thirty out of the 40 men who lost weight were soldiers undergoing military sentences of from four to seven days solitary confinement (cells), they lost 240 lbs. among them, or an average of 8 lbs. The 10 civil prisoners lost 31 lbs., or an average of 3 lbs. 1 oz.

61. The gaol building is well designed, but was constructed by contract, and, as is too often the case with contract work here, with a large proportion of bad materials, the result being that a constant patching has to be kept up. During 1876 the skylights were reconstructed, the whole of the outside walls pointed, and a separate house, formerly used for kitchens, converted into a small, but sufficient, female prison, having one ward and four cells. This last is a great improvement, as it effects, what previously was imperfect, the total separation of the sexes. The women, whether in their cells, their wash-house, or their labour yard, are now secluded from observation from any part of the gaol except from the keeper's (whose wife is matron) quarters.

62. Sixty-five prisoners, out of a total of 137, underwent one or more punishments during the year. The total inflictions were 265; the total in 1875 was 232; but the average in confinement

was only 40·6, whereas in the year under report it was 51·44; the punishments of 1875, corrected to the average of 1876, would be raised to 295. There was, therefore, a slight reduction in the proportion which the punishments bore to the number of prisoners during 1876 from that of the previous year. Of the 265 punishments, 145 were inflicted on 57 prisoners, each receiving from one to six; while the remaining 120 were divided between only eight men, the number of inflictions varying from seven to thirty-one, the last being the number received by one incorrigible.

5 were punished by flogging, by order of a Visiting Justice;
8 were punished by remission to first class by a Visiting Justice;
76 were punished by solitary confinement, by order of a Visiting Justice;
176 were punished by solitary confinement (limited to three days) by the Gaoler.

I may remark that what is here termed "solitary" confinement, is seclusion in a partially darkened cell of the ordinary size, in which all the sounds going on in the gaol can be heard, on a diet of one half pound of wheaten bread or biscuit, with four pints of water. An experiment has been undergoing trial for the last two years, with the object of rendering this confinement more irksome and, therefore, more punitive. A peculiarity of the negro is the power he appears to have of sleeping for long continued periods, and this power deprives the punishment cell of half its effect upon him, and has led to a widespread belief that solitary confinement is no hardship for him. To prevent sleep during the day, upright wooden cages, sufficiently large to admit a man without unduly cramping him, and which will allow him the free use of his arms, have been placed in two of the punishment cells; the culprit is released for his meals, but is confined during the rest of the working hours, 6 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and has, at night, the same bedding as the other prisoners. He is inspected each day by the doctor, and it is the opinion of both Messrs. Hunter and Gabb that, subject to this constant medical supervision, no physical ill effects can result from this mode of confinement. I think that it has the desired effect of rendering the punishment of solitary confinement more deterrent than it otherwise would be; and if it can be successfully substituted for the lash, as a method of dealing with refractory criminals, I think a great point will have been gained. The Gaoler, who has the power of awarding three days in a punishment cell, and who has exercised that power in 176 out of the 252 inflictions of this nature reported above, is not allowed to use these cages for the carrying out of his sentences, but they have been tried in 57 out of the 76 remaining confinements which were by order of a Visiting Justice and, in no case, with bad effects. It is noticeable, although not conclusive, as a proof of the efficacy of this mode of punishment, that the floggings of the last four years have numbered 24, 17, 8, 5 respectively, the last two years being those during which the experiment has been tried. The cutting of women's hair as a punishment has

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been abolished in 1876, it had not been inflicted for many years although still retained on the list of punishments.

63. In the three district prisons the diet, hours of labour, and general rules of Belize gaol have been applied as far as possible. The prisoners are employed in road-making, jungle-clearing and in various other useful services in the neighbourhood of their prisons.

64. The cost of the gaol and prisons was, during 1876, for Belize Common Gaol, 1,419*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; for Corozal District Prison, 235*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; for Orange Walk District Prison, 203*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and for All Pines Lock-up, 91*l.* 15*s.*, making a total of 1,950*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with 2,139*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* in 1875.

Criminal Statistics.

65. There was a considerable diminution of crime from the returns of the previous year, amounting to 375 in the total convictions. A reduction of 383 took place in the reports to the police, of 421 in the apprehensions and summonses, and of those tried the number acquitted or discharged for want of evidence in the Courts of First Instance was 131 greater than it was in 1875.

66. Twenty-seven persons were sent for trial to the Supreme Court, conviction ensuing in 23, and acquittal in four cases. Two men were convicted of murder and sentenced to death; in one (that of a Sureño or Spaniard from the country to the south of the Colony) no extenuating circumstances appeared, and he was executed; the sentence on the other (an Indian from the Western Frontier) was commuted to 20 years penal servitude. There were also two convictions for manslaughter, three for rape, one for an unnatural crime, 11 for offences against property, and four for miscellaneous crimes. The following comparative tabular statement may be interesting; the returns have only been compiled in their present shape for eight years:—

COMPARATIVE RETURN of CONVICTIONS in the Courts of British Honduras, Period 1869–76.

—	Average of Eight Years ending 1876.	1875.	1876.
SUMMARY CONVICTIONS.			
Offences against the person - - -	271·	321	290
Prœdial larceny - - - - -	19·875	34	15
Offences against property other than prœdial larceny.	118·375	132	109
Other offences - - - - -	630·	1,005	707
CONVICTIONS IN SUPREME COURT.			
Offences against the person - - -	10·625	15	8
Prœdial larceny - - - - -	0·	0	0
Offences against property other than prœdial larceny	12·25	12	11
Other offences - - - - -	1·5	0	4
Total - - -	1,063·625	1,519	1,144

Public Hospital.

67. The medical officer reports that 171 patients, of whom only 13 were women, were treated during the year, being 12 more than were admitted in 1875. The death rate was more favourable in the former than in the latter year, 18 or 10·53 per cent. as compared with 20 or 12·58 per cent. on the total of admissions. The diseases treated were, intermittent fevers (29), wounds (11), syphilis (11), rheumatism (9), ulcers (9), constipation (8), phthisis pulmonaris (6), and 56 other complaints in numbers varying from five to one. 17 of the above paid 3*s.* a day for their treatment, 13 came in under an Ordinance passed in September to allow labourers, &c., to be admitted on payment of 1*s.* a day, 65 were seamen whose ships had paid hospital dues, and the remaining 76 were pauper patients. The net cost of the hospital, exclusive of the salary of the Medical Officer, who is paid 350*l.* a year for attendance on the hospital, gaol, lunatic asylum, and poor house, was 395*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* Against this may be set the hospital dues paid by ships, which amounted to 414*l.* 10*s.* Apart from the cost of professional attendance and of repairs to building, this institution is, therefore, self-supporting.

Lunatic Asylum.

68. Dr. Allen, Superintendent of the Jamaica Asylum, paid a pre-arranged visit of inspection to Belize in January. His report has not yet been received and, pending its receipt, no steps have been taken to erect a new asylum. The 17 lunatics have ample house-room, although the various buildings are much dilapidated, enjoy considerable freedom from restraint, are well clothed and fed, and are generally in robust physical health. Two or three of them might be benefited by the curative treatment of a scientifically conducted establishment, the remainder are old chronic cases which are believed by the public Medical Officer to be hopeless. Their care cost the Colony 423*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, again omitting any charge for medical superintendence.

Poor House, Paupers, &c.

69. From 11 to 14, 12 on the 31st of December, very old people were sheltered and well cared for in the poor house, and 22 others received out-door relief of 2*s.* a week each, at a total expense of 374*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

Concluding Remarks.

70. The health of the Colony has on the whole been good during 1876. The seasons have been very exceptional, the ordinarily well marked "dry" of March, April and May was really a "wet" season, and no cessation of rain has taken place for any considerable period during the year. The consequence was shown in the prevalence of rheumatism, diphtheria, colds and slight fevers during the latter half. I append a meteorological return furnished by Mr. Cockburn, the Police Magistrate.

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METEOROLOGICAL NOTES for the Year 1876. (Monthly Averages.)

Months.	Barometer.	Fahrenheit Thermometer in Shade.	Rain in Inches.	Remarks.
January - -	30·220	76·79	9·81	An unusual quantity of rain has fallen every month during this year. Observations taken at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
February - -	30·515	72·56	1·06	
March - -	30·141	79·67	1·65	
April - - -	30·130	81·41	4·20	
May - - -	30·140	82·71	7·60	
June - - -	30·476	85·78	7·37	
July - - -	30·215	83·14	12·79	
August - -	30·409	86·37	8·83	
September - -	30·041	83·79	3·82	
October - -	29·612	78·82	9·14	
November - -	29·716	78·16	12·08	
December - -	30·087	75·38	8·08	
Mean - -	30·142	80·38	7·20	

71. Rumours of Indian aggression were rife during the last quarter of the year: they had their foundation principally in the machinations of a few vagabonds, outcasts from Guatemala and Yucatan, who endeavoured, probably in the hope of receiving countenance from Campeche, to fan into a flame the smouldering embers of territorial disputes between the Colony and the Indians of the Chichanja tribe. So far as I have been able to discover they received no active encouragement from the Indians on the other side of our frontier, and were not materially supported by the kindred tribes within our jurisdiction. Up to the end of the year a few insults and threats to the frontier police about Holotonitch and San José were the only results of an excitement which I hope may subside without further trouble. Rewards have been offered for the capture of three of the Spanish ring-leaders, and one Indian, who assumed to act under authority said to be delegated to him by the Lôchá chief Araña, a Mexican subject, has been ordered to quit the Colony.

72. The establishment of permanent garrisons at Corozal and Orange Walk appears to have increased the confidence of the inhabitants, and many new houses of a more solid construction than had been previously built are being erected in both places. Corozal, especially, has wonderfully improved during the eight years I have known it. The Spanish speaking inhabitants of the younger generation are growing up without the extreme prejudice against English manners and customs that their fathers have. Our language is being more extensively learned, intermarriages are becoming more frequent, business relations more close and private intercourse more cordial than heretofore. The semi-barbarous practices so graphically described by Lieutenant-Governor Seymour, in his Blue Book Report for 1858, have almost totally disappeared; the decorous observance of Sunday is more general, and, although, in the "fiestas" which take place at Christmas, many of the old customs are kept up, the method of

observing them is more refined, and the drunken revelry which then prevailed is now much lessened.

73. Amidst much that is gloomy in the prospects of British Honduras, it is satisfactory to notice that English civilization, however scanty its appliances, is here, as elsewhere, making its mark, faintly it may be, but more deeply inscribed by every year of peace and of good government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL,
Administrator of Government.

His Excellency
Governor Sir William Grey, K.C.S.I.,
&c. &c. &c.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 4.

Governor CALLAGHAN to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
MY LORD, March 19, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the annual Blue Book of the Falkland Islands for 1876.

2. As I did not assume the government until the middle of May, I do not at present feel qualified to enter upon any detailed report on the state and prospects of the Colony, but will confine myself to some general remarks on those points which strike me as deserving of observation.

Revenue.

3. The local revenue for 1876 was 3,194*l.*, while that of the preceding year amounted to 4,133*l.*, showing a decrease of 939*l.*

From all I can learn, this decrease was owing to exceptional circumstances, and there is reason to hope that it does not indicate a permanent falling off in the annual revenue of the Colony.

Expenditure.

4. I am glad to be able to report there was a decrease of 2,044*l.* in the expenditure of 1876, it being only 8,119*l.*, while in 1875 it reached 10,163*l.*

Imports.

5. The imports only amounted to 27,056*l.*, as compared with 42,460*l.* of the preceding year.

I find, however, on referring to former returns, that the imports for some time past have shown a deficiency every alternate year, a circumstance which I am informed is dependent on

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the number of trips that the two regular trading vessels belonging to the local merchants, and employed in bringing out their supplies from England, happen to make within the year.

Exports.

6. Although the exports show a slight decrease on those of the previous year, amounting to 37,121*l.*, against 38,987*l.* of 1875, I am glad to observe, as regards wool, the most important item, that the quantity exported in 1876 was 814,687 lbs., being a decided increase on the export of this article in 1875, which only reached 735,902 lbs.

However, owing to the fall in the price of wool, the value of the quantity exported in 1876 was only 25,453*l.*, while it amounted in the previous year to 28,472*l.* sterling.

It is worthy of notice that there is a marked increase in the export of tallow, the value exported of this article in 1875 and 1876 amounting respectively to 3,006*l.* and 5,270*l.* I find that in 1874 it was only 140*l.*

It would therefore seem that the process of "boiling down" the carcasses of sheep to make tallow, adopted a few years ago by the Falkland Islands Company, is likely to prove a successful experiment.

In page 194 of the present Blue Book there is the following note on the subject:—

"The Company's 'boiling down' machinery is in full operation, and at least 13,000 sheep were killed for their tallow last season.

"The season commences in March, and lasts about three months."

A very interesting description of this process of "boiling down" is given in Colonel D'Arcy's Blue Book report for 1874.

The local sealing trade would seem to have dwindled down to a very low state, the value of hair and fur seal skins exported in 1875 and 1876 being only 2*l.* and 65*l.* respectively, although in 1871 it amounted to 2,212*l.*

The decrease is accounted for by the sealers having killed off the old seals, and leaving the young ones to die from starvation. It is greatly to be regretted that a close season was not rendered compulsory, and that the seals were allowed to be killed at all times of the year.

There is, in consequence, a great scarcity of seals in the Falkland Islands. Most of the seal skins exported from here now, come from the vicinity of Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn, and the trade is almost entirely in the hands of the Americans.

There is also a great falling off in the export of oil (seal and penguin oil), which in 1867 amounted to 3,860*l.*, and for the years following, up to 1870 inclusive, averaged about 3,500*l.* In 1876 it only amounted to 160*l.*

Legislation.

7. The following Ordinances were passed in 1876, and as they have been fully explained in former despatches, I am not aware that they call for any special remark in this report.

Ordinance No. 1 of 11th April 1876.—An Ordinance for the naturalization of Edward Nilsson and Charles Bender as British subjects.

Ordinance No. 2 of 29th June 1876.—An Ordinance to make further provision for the administration of justice in the Falkland Islands.

Ordinance No. 3 of 29th June 1876.—An Ordinance for making certain verbal alterations in the Summary Jurisdiction Amendment Ordinances and other Ordinances.

Ordinance No. 4 of 14th December 1876.—Penal Servitude Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 5 of 14th December 1876.—An Ordinance to extend certain Acts of Parliament to these Settlements in force in England relative to the criminal law.

Ordinance No. 6 of 14th December 1876.—An Ordinance to provide for the continuance of Ordinance No. 1 of 1875, entitled "An Ordinance to give a preferable Lien on Wool from Season to "Season, and to make Mortgages of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses "valid without delivery to the Mortgagee.

Sheep Farming.

8. The returns for 1875 and 1876 of the number of sheep are respectively 185,400 and 271,400.

I regret to learn that the ravages of scab have been very severe during the last year and for some time past, and some sheep farmers have endeavoured to impress upon me the necessity of having a more stringent Ordinance passed on the subject, and of appointing a Government Inspector to carry out its provisions.

Apart from the expense such an appointment would entail, which in the present circumstances of the Colony it would be most undesirable to incur, the question is one of considerable difficulty, and, as far as my short experience enables me to judge, I fear legislation would not solve it. Such a measure would also encounter serious opposition from the larger proprietors in the West and East Falklands.

I understand that the Sheep Ordinance No. 3 of 1867, which contains provisions on the subject of scab, has practically remained a dead letter.

Without going into the matter more fully, I may point out that the infection would too probably be spread by outlying sheep straying away to adjoining farms, a circumstance which the most vigilant and rigorous inspection would be powerless to prevent, owing to the vast extent of land, all unfenced, over which the flocks are scattered, and the comparatively few shepherds employed. With regard to the latter circumstance I cannot help thinking that in the case of the more struggling class of sheep farmers there is reason to apprehend that before long their prospects may be seriously damaged by their not being able to afford the heavy expense of bringing out additional shepherds from home in proportion as their flocks increase.

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Shipping.

9. The following tabular statement of the number and tonnage of merchant vessels which entered Stanley Harbour during the last six years may be of interest, as showing the importance even of this remote Settlement to the mercantile world:—

A TABULAR STATEMENT of the NUMBER of MERCHANT VESSELS which entered Stanley Harbour during the last six years.

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1871	54	20,802
1872	60	26,865
1873	50	23,127
1874	47	15,978
1875	55	22,403
1876	35	18,354
6	301	127,529

N.B.—Of the total number, viz. 301, 214 were British ships, 46 United States, 16 German, 5 Swedish, 5 Italian, and the remaining 15 of various nationalities.

Of the above, 72 vessels arrived in distress and were repaired in Stanley.

It is believed that many more ships which sustain damage on their homeward voyage round Cape Horn would call here for repairs only that there is no dock at Stanley, a fact which is generally known to the mercantile marine. Under these circumstances the captains prefer struggling on to Monte Video, where all the necessary facilities for repairs can be obtained.

There can be no doubt that the want of a dock, and also of a steam tug, is a great loss to this port, but I fear that there is no immediate prospect of these advantages being supplied by local enterprise.

Two very sad cases connected with ships which arrived here during the year illustrate the dangers, besides the perils of the sea, to which unfortunate sailors are exposed.

The first was that of the British ship "St. Elmo," which arrived here on the 19th July last, with nine of her crew suffering from the effects of lead poisoning. The following short statement from Dr. Watts, the Colonial Surgeon, on the subject may be of interest:—

"The poisoning of the 'St. Elmo' crew resulted from the pipe leading from the water tank to the deck being repaired several different times with red and white lead, which ultimately found its way through the repaired leak into the tank, thereby poisoning the water used for culinary purposes on board; consequently it is advisable in such cases to fit the tank with gutta percha instead of lead pipe.

"The symptoms of the illness were of ordinary cases of lead poisoning in an intense form, some of the men being paralysed in

the hands and feet for upwards of eight months, which was in the earlier stages accompanied with paroxysms of extreme pain."

Six of these poor men have sufficiently recovered to be able to proceed to England, one more goes home this mail, and two still remain here in a very weakly condition.

The want of a public hospital in Stanley was most seriously felt on this occasion, as no other accommodation being procurable for them seven of the sick men were lodged in the completed portion of the new gaol, which had to be converted into a temporary hospital for the purpose.

The other case to which I referred was also one of poisoning, but from a different cause, and was attended with far more disastrous consequences than the first. It was that of the British ship "Crown Prince," of St. John, N.B., which arrived here on the 5th of December last, with nearly all her crew suffering from a most alarming illness, on which the Colonial Surgeon has reported as follows :—

"The crew of the 'Crown Prince' suffered from the usual symptoms of poisoning from putrid food (salt pork). They complained of nausea, vomiting, colic, diarrhœa, and prostration, which were followed by delirium and death in six cases.

"Most of the nine men now recovering are suffering from numbness and paralysis of the hands and feet.

"On survey, the salt provisions were found to have a strong putrid odour, and were in consequence destroyed.

"With the exception of a little softness of the film of the meat, there was nothing in the appearance to indicate the putrid state it was in; but its powerful smell left no doubt of its being unfit for human food, and the cause of the fearful malady on board. Although the men had eaten but one meal from a recently opened barrel of pork, as the sickness came on simultaneously with every man who had eaten of it, the captain stopped the supply at once from that barrel.

"This pork was supposed to have been bought at Callao, but the provisions having been mixed in stowage the captain states he was not certain where he had obtained it.

"Although the vessel was laden with guano, which might in some cases be prejudicial to health, still I do not consider such serious and fatal consequences could result from a cargo of that description."

The verdict of the coroner's jury, at the inquest held on the unfortunate men, was in accordance with the medical testimony, viz., that death was occasioned by paralysis of the heart brought on by blood poisoning.

Of the men undergoing treatment, seven have been discharged from the ship.

It is thought that three of them will be sufficiently recovered to proceed to England next mail, and the doctors entertain hopes of the recovery of all the others, although in the case of some it will, it is feared, be very tedious.

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As, owing to carelessness or to a spirit of false economy, so little attention is paid by many owners and masters of vessels to the quality of the provisions supplied to the crew, in consequence of which the matter is too much left at the mercy of the provision dealers, I have thought it may possibly have a good effect to draw public attention to the details connected with this most distressing case.

If saving were the motive in this particular instance of the "Crown Prince," it certainly has proved to have been a very false economy for the owners, as, apart from the very heavy expenses connected with the illness of the crew, the ship has been detained here at a great loss since the 5th of December, and up to this the master has not succeeded in obtaining a crew, sailors being unwilling to join such an unfortunate vessel.

Another very sad tale of disaster was communicated to me early in June by the Rev. T. Bridges, Missionary Superintendent of the South American Missionary Society at Ooshooia, Tierra del Fuego. Mr. Bridges in his most interesting letter states that "on the 22nd April last a large party of Indians reached "Ooshooia from New Year's Sound and neighbourhood and "brought news of the death of nine men by starvation and "exposure on an exposed part of the coast."

He then details how he and Captain Willis of the "Allen Gardiner," a vessel belonging to the Mission, accompanied by the Indians who gave the information, set out on a voyage in search of the spot, which proved to be Hoste Island, which they reached after a long and stormy passage. Mr. Bridges then narrates how Captain Willis and himself, with four of the Indians, succeeded in landing, and proceeds :—

"We scrambled up the steep rocky coast and some 50 yards above the sea, near the middle of the islet, or rather peninsula, found nine dead bodies much decomposed but all abundantly clothed. One of these was a poor woman, evidently the captain's wife, who was lying beside her. Seven bodies were lying in a long hollow between rocks about 4 feet wide and 5 feet deep, and about 40 feet long. Two bodies were away from the rest, but close to each other. At the upper end of this hollow the poor fellows had lived. Across the rocks they had spread canvas, perhaps their boat's sail, which had attracted the Indians' sharp sight from the other side of the sound. Here they had made their fires and cooked their food, tins of meat and such mussels as they could gather on the steep and wave-washed coast of their circumscribed prison, a peninsula about 150 feet high, 100 yards wide from west to east, and 300 yards long from north to south. It appeared from the sea to be joined to the main, but on ascending we were horrified to find an abrupt chasm completely cutting off retreat from this dreadful prison.

"We remained covering over the dead and in search of information as long as we could, but threatening weather prevented our staying as long as we could have wished.

"From clothing and other things we ascertained the names of eight of the dead." FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Captain Willis fortunately came across a letter written in pencil on four leaves torn out of a pocket book which afforded a clue to the matter. Captain Willis on his arrival in Stanley gave me this letter, and it has been forwarded to its destination.

As perhaps in the whole annals of disaster by sea or land it would be difficult to find anything more sad and touching than these few lines, pencilled when the writer was, as he says, "very weak and about blind," I insert an exact copy of it, which is as follows:—

"In lat. 54. 30 S., long. 71 W.,

"DEAR JOHN, Feb. 15th, 1876.

"WHEN you receive this your Mother and mee will be no more, we have been 41 days in this desolate Island on very low diet, your Mother and mee is very weak. I am about blind. I can scareley see the paper I am writing. My watch and your Mother chain ~~my instruments~~ I give to Willy, my Albert to yourself, and you must wear your Mothers ring; the earrings for Jessey. My instrument, cloths, & gold watch, & three pounds twelve shilling to assist in maintang Willie, and I hope you will be as a father to him, kind, and giving him good advice, the furniture to to yourself; their is too chronometers, one Telescope, one night, the chronometer marked Webster & Telescope ~~mu~~ you must take to the office, and you can see if their is any money due for mee, if their is it will have to go for the maintainance of William. And his Mother joins with mee in hoping he will be a good Boy and not forget his God, and we hope that you & Jessey may live long together in happiness & peace in Fear of the Lord, and now we send you our last kind loveing blessing and may God Bless you all is the sincerest wish of your Parents.

"JAMES MCADAM. To John Fleming,
"84, Canterbury Street, Everton,
"Liverpool."

Subsequently to the receipt of Mr. Bridges' letter my attention was drawn to the following paragraph, which appeared in the "Liverpool Weekly Mercury" of the 15th April last:—

"The 'San Rafael," bound from Liverpool for Valparaiso with coal, was burned on the 4th of January in latitude 53° S., and longitude 76° W. Eleven of the crew were picked up on the 31st January by the 'Yorkshire' from Melbourne, and arrived at Gravesend on Wednesday.

"The captain and the remainder of the crew are missing.

"The following further particulars have been received:—On the night of leaving the vessel the boats parted company, the captain, his wife, and eight others being in the long boat. The crew of the other boat were in a sad state, and suffered greatly from hunger, sores, and frost-bite.

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"Some days were passed in shelter on the numerous small islands to the south-west of Tierra del Fuego, but from their barren nature only limpets and mussels were obtained. On the 24th January the cook, Henry Hill, died from exposure, and when the remainder were rescued by the ship 'Yorkshire' on the 31st, George Hind, one of the apprentices, had two toes amputated."

The "Mercury" then proceeds to give a list of the crew saved, and also of the missing, amongst whom I find the names of James McAdam and his wife.

Mr. Bridges, in referring to McAdam and his unfortunate companions, says:—"Had they gone further up the sound, or across "to the other side, they would have been comparatively in quiet "waters, in a good land, where they would have saved their boat, "and readily travelled from place to place, till they might meet "with the natives, some of whom know a little English, and are "much humanised by the knowledge they have attained of God "and his word. I feel sure they would have been kindly treated "and forwarded, and brought on their way to Ooshooia."

I have had great pleasure in conveying, as requested by your Lordship, the thanks of Her Majesty's Government to the Rev. Mr. Bridges, for his most humane exertions on the melancholy occasion, in which he was zealously assisted by Captain Willis.

It is most gratifying to think that the conduct of the Indians in this affair was, on the whole, as good and kindly as could have been expected from a more civilised community; and I was glad at receiving instructions to forward, on the part of the Board of Trade, 20*l.* to the Rev. Mr. Bridges to distribute amongst them as a reward for their very creditable behaviour under the distressing circumstances.

Education.

10. I find from the report of Mr. Collins, the Government schoolmaster, that there was a slight falling off in the attendance of children in 1876.

According to the report, "In 1875 the total number enrolled "amounted to 141, and in 1876 to 127; the average attendance "in 1875 being 80, and in 1876, 71.

"Certain circumstances may account for this decrease, as well "as for the small average attendance, only 55 per cent. of the "children enrolled.

"On account of the uncertainty and severity of the climate, "many children, when they reach the age of 10 or 12, are at "certain seasons of the year temporarily withdrawn from school "to assist their parents in out-door labour, peat-cutting, garden-"ing, &c. There is great difficulty in dealing with such cases."

Mr. Collins concludes by reporting favourably on the conduct of the children during the past year.

Climate.

11. For the following interesting meteorological summary for 1876, and the remarks regarding it, I am indebted to Mr. Cobb, the manager of the Falkland Islands Company:—

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR 1876.

—	Temperature.			Humidity, Saturation =100.	Rain.		Average Cloud (Overcast) =10.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.		Total Inches.	Days.	
January	61·3	33·2	47·8	75	3·27	24	7·8
February	68·2	33·2	46·9	69	2·00	22	6·4
March	59·0	31·0	45·8	80	2·12	22	7·6
April	58·8	35·0	44·9	86	1·07	21	8·2
May	49·8	28·5	39·1	89	1·64	21	6·4
June	44·5	25·7	36·9	90	1·10	19	7·2
July	54·9	27·7	37·3	87	2·76	22	6·5
August	46·2	26·7	37·0	87	1·70	28	6·8
September	54·4	30·0	40·4	84	1·58	14	7·2
October	51·8	27·8	39·8	88	1·28	24	8·0
November	68·0	30·0	43·1	76	0·91	15	8·3
December	67·8	33·0	47·4	74	0·99	17	6·6
Totals and means	—	—	42·2	82	20·42	249	7·2

COMPARISON WITH 1875.

—	Higher.	Lower.
Mean temperature		1·3 deg.
Humidity	2	—
Rain		1·37 in.
Rainy days	33	—
Cloud		0·6

The past year has compared in nearly every respect unfavourably with its predecessor. Although the actual rainfall was less, the wet days were 33 more, and the humidity was greater throughout. Heavy rain occurred in January and February, and the winter was marked by the severity of its snowstorms, telling heavily upon sheep and cattle. The spring was unusually severe, and has, it must be feared, injuriously affected the lambing returns throughout the Colony. In compensation for this disastrous season, it may be mentioned (although belonging more properly to the report on the present year) that we have had a singularly fine summer. The average maximum of the thermometer in the shade for January exceeded that of the same month last year by 4·0 deg. Fahrenheit, and on the 27th the extraordinary temperature of 76·0 was registered. Up to the present time the weather has continued, with few exceptions, to be singularly fine.

FRED. E. COBB.

General.

12. H.M.S. "Challenger" arrived here on the 23rd January, and I find that in last month's number of "Good Words," Professor Sir C. Wyville Thompson has contributed a most valuable

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and interesting account of the Falkland Islands, from which I may be permitted to make the following extracts:—

"On the day of our arrival Captain Thompson and I paid our respects to the Governor, Colonel D'Arcy, and we found him greatly interested in our arrival, owing to a report which had reached Stanley that some seams of graphite and workable beds of coal had been found at Port Sussex, on the other side of the Island. Although, from the little I had seen and read of the geology of the Islands, and still more from the appearance of the specimens shown me by Colonel D'Arcy, I felt pretty well assured that the quest would be fruitless, to satisfy the Governor and the agent of the Falkland Islands Company, I asked Mr. Moseley, who was glad of this opportunity of seeing some of the country, to ride across and ascertain the true state of affairs. His observations justified our previous opinion. The whole of the East Island, and probably the greater part of the West Island also, consists of sedimentary rocks of palæozoic age; in the low grounds clay-slates and soft sandstones, and on the ridges hardened sandstones passing into the conspicuous white quartzites. The beds of so-called coal were simply very bituminous layers among the clay-slates, sometimes becoming a sort of culm, which might possibly answer to mix with coal and burn in a smithy fire, like the bituminous slates in the Bala series of Tyrone and Ayrshire, but which could never be worked with advantage. The "graphite" was only the blackest samples of the same material.

"Mr. Moseley brought back a fine lot of fossils from the sandstones, the beds and their contents having very much the appearance of the ferruginous sandstones of May Hill or Girvan. The species of Orthis, Atrypa, and Spirifer are different, and as there are no graptolites in the schists, it is probable that the whole series belong to a somewhat later period, possibly the bottom of the Devonians.

"But if Mr. Moseley did not find coal, he brought home slung at his saddle-bow what was of much greater interest to us, the skull and a great part of the skeleton of a rare little whale belonging to the genus Xiphius.

"The Falkland Islands consist of the older palæozoic rocks, Lower Devonian, or Upper Silurian, slightly metamorphosed, and a good deal crumpled and distorted.

"It is entirely contrary to our experience that coal of any value should be found in such beds; galena may occur in the quartzites, but probably in no great quantity, and there is no positive reason why gold may not be found, although the beds have scarcely the character of auriferous quartz.

* * * * *

"The peat of the Falkland Islands is very different in character from that of the north of Europe. Cellular plants enter scarcely at all into its composition, and it is formed almost entirely of the roots and matted foliage and stems of *Empetrum rubrum*,

variety of the common crowberry of the Scottish hills with red berries, called by the Falklanders the 'Diddle-dee' berry; of *Myrtus nummularia*, a little creeping myrtle which also produces red berries with a pleasant flavour, and leaves which have been used as a substitute for tea; of *Caltha appendiculata*, a dwarf species of the marsh-marigold; and of some sedges and sedge-like plants, such as *Astelia pumila*, *Gaimardia australis*, and *Rosthovia grandiflora*. The roots and stems of these, preserved almost unaltered, may be traced several feet down into the peat, but finally the structure becomes obliterated, and the whole is reduced to an amorphous carbonaceous mass. The general flora of the 'camp' is much like that of the low grounds of Fuegia and Paragonia, but one misses the pretty flowering shrubs, especially the *Pernettyas* and the lovely *Philesia buxifolia*. The *Smilaceæ* are, however, still well represented by the delicately perfumed 'almond flower,' *Callixene marginata*."

With regard to peat, which is found in such abundance in these Islands, I am glad to be able to report that there is a prospect of a manufactory being shortly established in Stanley for converting it into patent fuel. An American gentleman is in treaty with the Government for a grant of a certain extent of peat-bearing land with a view to establishing this manufactory.

Towards the close of the year the Governor of the Chilean Colony of Sandy Point, Señor Diego Duble Almeida, arrived here in a man-of-war; he informed me that this visit was undertaken by desire of the Chilean Government, who are anxious to promote commercial intercourse between the Falklands and Sandy Point.

I think it very probable from what the Governor said that a steamer will be shortly started by a Chilean merchant to run from Sandy Point to Stanley.

As Sandy Point is likely before long to become a thriving settlement, it would be greatly to our advantage to have steam communication between it and this port; it would open up a good market for our sheep, cattle, and other products, for which we can get in exchange flour, coal, and wood, articles much needed here.

I may observe in conclusion that if the foregoing enterprises prove successful the progress of this Colony may be regarded as assured.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. F. CALLAGHAN.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,

&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 5.

Governor ROBINSON to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Nassau,
March 20, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship my report upon the Blue Book for 1876.

Taxes and Finance.

2. A revised tariff, a limited scale of stamp duties, and a proposed increase in the fees payable in the General Court and the Registrar's Office were laid before the House of Assembly in its last session. The tariff was favourably received, and in one instance, viz., that of flour, the House more than doubled the additional duty which I proposed to place upon that article. I am informed that the stamp duties and the additional fees in the General Court were rejected without any discussion. Certain additions to the fees payable in the Registrar's Office were, however, agreed to, and the result has been that that office is in a measure self-supporting.

3. The "strenuous efforts" which the House of Assembly promised to make were, I regret to say, limited to an inquiry into the possibility of still further reducing the number and salaries of the civil servants. A *prospective* saving of 1,920*l.* was thus accomplished, but no immediate increase to the revenue was secured.

4. In the meantime the deficit of 5,325*l.* which had accrued in 1874 and 1875 had not in any way been provided for, and the Public Exchequer was embarrassed by a claim from the mail contractors for the sum of 1,500*l.* due up to the 1st of January, and then six weeks in arrear.

5. Owing to the priority of other claims, I did not feel justified in instructing the Receiver-General to liquidate that of Messrs. Murray, Ferris, & Co., but I laid the matter before the House of Assembly, stating that it was exactly two months since I had referred to the embarrassed condition of the Colonial finances, and had asserted that the credit of the community was seriously impaired by a state of things which would inevitably become worse unless a vigorous and immediate remedy were applied.

6. I added that "the House of Assembly must allow that this "anticipation will be speedily realised unless some decisive steps "are taken to rescue the Colony from the unfortunate position "in which it is now placed, and for which the Legislature is to a "great extent responsible." The date of this message was the 31st January 1876.

7. On the 3rd of February I again addressed the Assembly, and suggested that some steps should be taken to get rid of the deficit which had accumulated on the transactions of 1874 and 1875.

8. I pointed out that there were two ways by which this might be done: 1st, by imposing direct taxes, such as income, property, trade, or municipal taxes; or 2nd, by raising a loan of 6,000*l.*, in which case it would be necessary to impose additional taxes for providing interest and a sinking fund for the ultimate redemption of the loan.

9. This message was referred to a Select Committee, of which the Colonial Secretary was a member, and an income tax of 3*d.* in the pound was suggested by it.

10. The House of Assembly refused, however, to adopt the recommendation of the Committee on the ground that they were "opposed to additional taxation," and that they were of opinion that the increase made to the tariff would be sufficient for the purpose of equalising revenue and expenditure.

11. A loan of 6,000*l.* was therefore raised, and no provision whatever was made for the interest or sinking fund.

12. On this I informed the House of Assembly that, looking to the amount of the existing debt, I was still of opinion that it would have been wise to make special provision for the objects to which I had referred, but as they had decided that it was not desirable to increase taxation for those purposes, they had merely added 6,000*l.* to the public debt of the Colony, and increased the expenditure by the amount of interest payable thereon.

13. I may mention here that, with the exception of licenses to sell liquor and medicine, of a stamp duty on cheques imposed by me in 1875, and a tax of 1*l.* per head on horses and 10*s.* for each seat on every carriage, as well as a small license for drays and drivers, there are no direct imposts in force in the Colony, and that municipal rates for police, roads, &c. are unknown. The bulk of the revenue is therefore raised by Customs duties on the necessaries and so-called "luxuries" of life.

Revenue and Expenditure.

14. Those who anticipated that the new tariff would be sufficient to equalise revenue and expenditure must have been grievously disappointed by the results of the year 1876.

15. The actual ordinary receipts were only 35,777*l.*, against 37,681*l.* in 1875.

16. The actual expenses, however, were 39,397*l.*, against 43,726*l.*

17. The Customs duties were 1,750*l.* less than in 1875, notwithstanding the increased duties, and though the additional duty on flour yielded 700*l.* there was an apparent decrease of 1,609 barrels, representing no less than 313,600 lbs., in the quantity imported, or about 9 lbs. per head for the entire population.

18. I am of opinion that indirect taxation has reached its utmost limit in this Colony, and I hope ere long to be enabled, by the action of the Legislature, to propose reductions of the duties now levied on many of the articles which enter into the daily consumption of the poorer classes.

19. The additional spirit duties which were imposed by Mr.

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Hennessy, instead of yielding, as he anticipated, two or three thousand a year, gave 2,200*l.* *less* than in the previous year. This result, though it may be partly attributable to the extension of the temperance movement in the Colony, gives rise to the suspicion that the high duties have caused smuggling to be effected, and it also points to the propriety of closing the canteen and paying the officers and soldiers stationed here a money compensation in lieu of the privileges as to exemption from duties which they are supposed now *solely* to enjoy. I proposed a measure to effect this nearly two years ago, but it was rejected. I have again submitted the matter to my Council, but I think it will be necessary to forward the draft of any measure which may be agreed to to your Lordship, as there are certain Imperial interests concerned which make legislation somewhat difficult. The total deficit on the transactions of 1876 was 2,421*l.*, and sums owing from 1875 swelled that amount to 3,033*l.*

Public Debt.

20. The public debt during 1876 was increased from 55,161*l.* to 61,161*l.*, and debentures to the amount of 15,000*l.* are redeemable during 1877.

Imports and Exports.

21. The imports amounted to only 153,689*l.*, being 18,494*l.* less than the imports for the preceding year.

22. The exports were 106,836*l.* against 108,893*l.* for 1875, and both imports and exports were below the average of the last five years, as will be seen from the following table :—

Years	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1872 - - -	201,051	136,224
1873 - - -	226,306	156,613
1874 - - -	183,993	130,292
1875 - - -	172,183	108,893
1876 - - -	153,689	106,836
Total - -	937,222	638,858
Average -	187,444	127,771

23. In articles of Bahama produce exported there was a slight increase in value over that of 1875, but the value was considerably below that of 1872–4. The total value for the last five years has been—

	£		£
1872 - -	89,615	1875 - -	79,571
1873 - -	111.268	1876 - -	80,875
1874 - -	86,351		

Wrecks and Casualties.

24. There was again a diminution in these disasters as regards number, as well as in the value of the cargoes landed therefrom

in 1876 as compared with 1875. In 1874 there were 38 wrecks and vessels in distress, in 1875, 22, and in 1876, 19—distributed as follows:—

			Value of Cargo.
			£
1874	Wrecks, 12		27,706
„	Distress, 26		11,287
		38	
1875	Wrecks, 11		23,846
„	Distress, 11		3,595
		22	
1876	Wrecks, 12		11,658
„	Distress, 7		13,489
		19	
Total		79	
Average		26	

Public Health, Temperature, &c.

25. The public health during 1876 was extremely good, notwithstanding the prevalence of yellow fever at Havana, Savannah, and other ports in the Southern States of America, with which the Bahamas are in frequent communication. The most rigid quarantine was, however, enforced. The temperature during the summer months was exceedingly high, and the rainfall excessive, showing a total of 75·25, against 41·95 inches in the previous year, as will be seen from the following table:—

	Thermometer.				Rainfall.			
	Max. in the Shade.	Min. in the Shade.	Max. in the Sun.	Mean at 3 P.M.	Rainfall.	No. of Rainy Days.	Maximum fall in 24 hours.	Date.
					inches.			
January	89·7	62·2	142·2	75·0	0·64	4	0·26	28
February	83·2	61·3	147·7	76·0	2·42	6	1·25	4
March	83·2	62·4	147·4	72·0	2·29	2	1·89	25
April	89·1	61·4	149·0	78·0	1·14	2	0·58	15
May	93·6	67·1	153·4	84·1	14·17	8	5·20	28
June	91·2	70·1	149·4	82·2	12·44	12	4·94	9
July	96·4	72·4	156·3	86·2	3·07	12	0·46	21
August	94·5	71·6	149·4	85·5	5·66	11	1·85	22
September	94·5	68·0	155·0	83·7	20·48	21	5·61	15
October	91·0	67·5	154·5	78·0	4·62	16	1·52	14
November	87·0	60·0	144·5	75·1	5·70	7	3·33	7
December	85·0	53·5	147·5	72·8	2·60	8	1·75	10
Sums	1078·4	779·5	1796·3	948·6	75·25	109	5·61	Sept. 15
Means	89·8	64·8	149·7	79·9	6·27	9	—	—

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26. In the middle of September and again in the middle of October the Bahamas were visited by a hurricane. Fortunately, New Providence on each of these occasions was outside the centre of the storm, but considerable damage was done at Biminis and Grand Bahama, where nearly all the standing crops were destroyed by the violence of the wind and rain.

27. The following tables show the mortality and the births during 1876:—

	March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.	Total.
BIRTHS.					
Nassau - -	102	98	93	90*	383
Out-islands - -	261	155	241	220*	877
Total births -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,260
DEATHS.					
Nassau - -	78	65	78	65*	286
Out-islands - -	105	93	85	93*	376
Total deaths -	- -	- -	- -	-	662

Giving for New Providence—

A birth rate of - -	32·4	per 1,000
And a death rate of -	24·2	„
And for the Colony a birth rate of	29·2	„
And a death rate of -	15·4	„
In 1875 the birth rate was -	35·92	„
And the death rate - -	22·9	„

Salt Trade.

28. This trade is still paralysed by the high rate of duty levied in the United States. The amount of salt shipped last year was rather less than in the year previous. A glance at the following table of salt exported in the last five years will show your Lordship how severely one of the most important exports of the Colony has suffered by the protective duties levied upon it in America.

29. In several of the out-islands of this group the inhabitants formerly relied entirely upon the proceeds of salt raking, and the islands upon which salinas are situated are not, as a rule, capable of producing anything else.

30. For the last few years the industry has entailed a loss upon all those engaged in it, and there is no hope of their condition being improved until the duty is reduced or entirely abolished. It is most earnestly to be desired that an early opportunity for pressing this matter upon the serious attention of the United

* Estimated.

States Government will arise, and that Her Majesty's Government will avail itself of it, as the depression of the trade vitally affects the welfare of the Colony.

31. The concurrence of your Lordship in the terms on which I proposed the conversion of the leasehold tenure of the salt ponds into freehold is regarded as a very great boon, and the inhabitants of the salt-producing islands have expressed to me on numerous occasions their gratitude for the privilege which was so generously extended to them by the Imperial Government.

32. The question is one which has occupied the attention of my predecessors for upwards of 25 years, and it is a source of satisfaction to me that the final and favourable settlement of the conflicting interests involved has been attained during my administration of the Government.

33. The value of salt exported in the last five years has been as follows:—

	£
1872 - - - -	10,713
1873 - - - -	11,080
1874 - - - -	6,184
1875 - - - -	4,946
1876 - - - -	4,639

34. I am glad to say, although there are no signs of a revival of the trade so far as the amount exported is concerned, that the price paid at Inagua was from 1 to 2 cents a bushel higher than that paid in 1875.

Sponge Trade.

35. The demand for sponges during the past year was fully equal to that of 1875.

36. Compared with last year there was an increase of 1,688*l.* in the value of sponge exported, as will be seen from the following table, but there was also a falling off in the quantities collected of those sponges of the most useful kinds, such as wool and reef.

37. As regards velvet sponge, which is esteemed inferior only to the two kinds to which I have referred, there was an increase in value over that of 1875 of 1,873*l.* This sponge is found principally in the vicinity of Abaco. Some years ago many of the Abaco spongers abandoned their business, hoping to better their condition by cultivating pineapples. In this they were disappointed, and failing in their enterprise returned to their old occupation. For this reason a larger number of persons was recently employed on the Abaco coast, and the result was the increase in the quantity of velvet sponge gathered.

38. Larger quantities of grass and glove sponge were brought to market last year, and were sold at improved prices. The demand, however, for these classes of sponge is uncertain, and it is possible that the foreign markets may have been overstocked by last year's supply, and that a corresponding decrease in the amount exported may take place in the present year.

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39. During 1875 no improvement in the quality of the sponges was noticeable, and as I reported in my Despatch of the 28th February 1876, the proportion of sponges of suitable size is still decreasing.

40. Unless, therefore, the fisheries on the coast of Cuba are soon opened to Bahama spongers, the prospects of this trade are not likely to be enhanced, but rather to be affected unfavourably, as the supply of the best and largest sponges is certainly diminishing, and there is no fresh ground to work upon.

Table of Sponge exported.

Quality.	1875.		1876.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwt.	£	cwt.	£
Boat - - -	265	1,904	203	763
Glove - - -	58	177	168	575
Grass - - -	323	583	744	1,621
Hardhead - -	121	609	272	1,241
Reef - - -	252	2,908	197	2,373
Refuse - - -	36	86	203	386
Velvet - - -	292	2,892	477	4,765
Wool - - -	468	6,095	427	5,273
Yellow - - -	125	384	135	340
	1,940	15,638	2,826	17,337

Cave Earth.

41. The quantity of cave earth exported in 1875 was 4,125 tons, valued at 2,096*l.*, and in 1876 477 tons, valued at 954*l.*

42. Your Lordship is aware that at my request samples of this valuable fertiliser were analysed by Professor Frankland, and that he computed the best quality to be worth 10*l.* 10*s.* per ton, and the inferior quality forwarded to him 7*l.* 7*s.* per ton. I can only account for the falling off in this export by supposing that the American guano companies refuse to receive any but the very best quality, but even if this is the case, it will be manifest to your Lordship, on reference to Professor Frankland's analysis, that the price paid for it here, about $2 a ton, is not in any way commensurate to its real value.

43. The policy of disposing of this deposit is very questionable when the scantiness of the soil throughout the Colony, and the effects of cave earth as a fertiliser in all agricultural operations is remembered. I incline to think that the owners of caves are now alive to these facts, and that, unless they can sell the earth at far higher prices than it has hitherto realised, it will be used in greater quantities than heretofore in renovating the pineapple and other fields belonging to the agricultural portion of the community.

Pineapple Trade.

44. In my Blue Book Report for 1875 I stated that it was probable that the crop of 1876 would be an average one, and equally probable that the fruit exported would realise lower prices than in former years, and would cost less at the place from which it might be exported.

45. This prediction has been to a great extent verified.

46. The number of dozen pineapples exported in 1876 amounted to 457,415; the value here was 38,904*l.* The fruit brought, however, quite as good prices in America in 1876 as in 1875, the average being about $8 per 100. The price paid in England was also as good as that paid in the previous year, viz., about 3*s.* 3*d.* a dozen. The condition in which the fruit reached the foreign markets was as a rule very fair, and though a loss was sustained in some cases on the late shipments, the earlier ones paid well.

47. It is a curious fact, and one which certainly throws some suspicion upon the honesty of the American agents, that the cargoes shipped to England nearly all arrive in a fairly good condition, and realise high prices, whereas those exported to New York, excepting the very early shipments, are said invariably to have rotted in part, and consequently realise very low prices, insufficient in many cases to pay the shipper for more than the charter of the vessel.

48. At the beginning of the year several enterprising and influential merchants formed themselves into a company styled the "Pineapple Preserving Co." They canned and exported to London 255 dozen of whole fruit, and 866 dozen of sliced fruit, in cans of various sizes. To the United States they exported 4,987 dozen of sliced fruit, making a total of 6,108 dozen of cans, varying in weight from 2 to 4 lbs. each.

49. About half of these consignments was disposed of by the end of last year, and I believe that in a pecuniary sense the venture has been successful.

50. I understand that similar companies are about to be started at Governor's Harbour as well as at Rock Sound, Eleuthera, and that several pineapple growers in New Providence propose next season to preserve and export their own fruit.

51. I have not the least doubt that if the preserved pineapple finds a ready market in America and Europe, the heavy losses which have been so frequently sustained in past years by pineapple shippers will not recur to so great an extent in the future.

52. If the small growers can find a sale for their fruit in Nassau, and that fruit is preserved here, the risk of heavy losses will be much diminished, as the shipments will not be nearly so large as they have been.

53. Great care should, however, be taken by these companies to secure that only good and ripe fruit is preserved, that the syrup is of sufficient consistency, and that in canning the fruit it is not overboiled.

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54. The manager of the Pineapple Preserving Company in Nassau sent me last year a few sample tins, and the conclusion that I arrived at was that the syrup was too watery, and that the ordinarily delicious flavour of the fruit had been affected by too long an immersion of the tin in hot water.

55. If my criticism is correct the defect can very easily be remedied.

Oranges, Shaddock, &c.

56. The quantity of oranges shipped in 1876 was greater than in 1875, but the price of the fruit here was lower by about 7*s.* per 1,000 than in the previous year.

57. The average price in 1876 was 25*s.*, whilst in 1875 it was 32*s.* per 1,000.

58. The fruit sent to ports in the Southern States sold at lower rates than that sent in 1875, and as Florida oranges are entering very largely into competition with Bahama fruit, and are increasing in quantity every year, any improvement in price can scarcely be looked for.

59. But for the fact that Bahama oranges come to perfection sooner than those grown in Florida, owing to the difference of climate, the price of oranges grown in this Colony would have declined still further.

60. Grape-fruit and shaddock sold at better prices than usual in London.

61. The number and value of oranges, grape-fruit, &c. shipped were as follows:—

	1876.		1875.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Oranges - - -	2,861,000	3,935	2,705,000	3,960
Grape-fruit, shaddock, &c.	173,000	211	152,000	363
Lemons and limes -	425,000	108	58,000	27
Cocoanuts - -	2,215	11	1,200	18
Bananas, bunches -	6,801	278	7,995	388

Woods and Bark.

62. The increase in the export of woods from 3,036*l.* in 1875 to 5,158*l.* in 1876 is owing principally to increased shipments of logwood, and partly of ebony, satinwood, and lignum-vitæ.

63. It is probable that the export of satinwood, as well as of ebony and lignum-vitæ, will materially decline, if it does not entirely cease, in 1877.

64. In consequence of excessive shipments from this and other ports in the West Indies, there is no further present demand for satinwood. From the same cause the value of ebony and lignum-

vitæ has declined, with the probability of there being, for some time at any rate, a cessation of the demand for them.

65. The United States is now the only market for logwood cut here, as the expense of its transmission to and sale in England is out of proportion to its value.

66. Of bark there was exported in 1875, 676 cwt., at a value of 397*l.*; in 1876, 1,218 cwt., valued at 583*l.*

67. Of cascarilla there was exported 1,093 cwt., against 676 cwt. in the previous year, and 125 cwt. of canella alba.

68. Bark has, if anything, declined in value, and it is probable that the export has reached its maximum.

69. The cascarilla is sent to England, but it is not of general use, so far as I can ascertain.

Crown Lands.

70. During the year 1876 there were two auction sales of Crown land, at which 68 country and 45 town and suburban lots were sold. The sales amounted to 527*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, but the whole of that amount has not yet been received.

71. In addition to these sales, 23 country lots, comprising 838 acres, have been sold to persons found in possession at the upset price, and also a tract of 400 acres of savannah or pasture land at Inagua. 790*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* were received during the year on account of the purchase money of Crown lands, viz., 400*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* on account of sales in 1876, 178*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* on account of arrears, 174*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* from persons found in possession, and 36*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* on account of unsold allotments.

72. One hundred and eighty-five country and 53 town lots, comprising 4,978 acres, have been surveyed and laid out, and 303*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* expended on that account.

73. Fifty-six grants of land, comprising 1,068 acres, and four grants of salt pond, comprising 10 acres 3 roods 16 poles, have been made during the year.

74. Owing to the reduction of the upset price, the proceeds of sales have not been so large as in 1875.

75. A strenuous effort for the recovery of arrears, described in another Despatch, is now being made by my direction.

Mail Service.

76. The mail service throughout the year was conducted with praiseworthy regularity by Messrs. Murray, Ferris, and Co.

77. During the summer months there is communication every four weeks with New York, and during the winter months three times per month with Savannah or some other southern port.

78. The cost is 5,950*l.* a year, and the contract expires in July 1877.

79. The visitors at the Royal Victoria Hotel were more numerous in the last two months of 1876 than in November and December of the previous year, and there appears a good prospect of the "season" being a comparative success.

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80. The postal revenue for 1876 was 2,585*l.*, exclusive of the Imperial subsidy of 1,000*l.* a year.

Legislation.

81. Seventeen Acts were passed by the Legislature in the year 1876, but only three of them were of such an exceptional character as to require comment.

82. The most important were 39 Vict. c. 1., 39 Vict. c. 9., and 39 Vict. c. 17.

83. The first was to impose other duties of Customs than those now payable. By this Act increased Customs duties were levied on articles already liable to duty, and other articles were enumerated and specific duties imposed.

84. The *ad valorem* duty was raised from 15 to 20 per cent. in the anticipation that the revenue and expenditure would be equalised. As I have already stated, this anticipation was not realised.

85. The second Act secured to the members of the police force the payment of their salaries weekly, and protected them from any attachments or executions for debts incurred by them. When I arrived in the Colony there was hardly a member of the force who was not in debt to, and consequently to a certain extent under the influence of, some storekeeper; a few of them owed considerably more than a year's pay. This law, which enables them to buy for cash, and which throws the risk of giving them credit upon the trader, has worked most satisfactorily, resulting in a marked improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the force.

86. To the Attorney General belongs the credit of having suggested and carried through the protecting clauses of the Act.

87. The third enactment authorised a further loan of 6,000*l.* to be added to the already large debt of the Colony. Under the head of Revenue I have referred at length to this transaction, and I need only add that the Imperial Government did not sanction this Act, but urged the Legislature to adopt some measure which would restore the public credit and place the debt on a sound basis.

Hospitals.

88. A full report upon the New Providence Asylum, which embraces a pauper asylum, a hospital, a lepers' and lunatics' ward, was forwarded in my Despatch No. 36 of the 23rd February, together with an account of the public dispensary, which is kept in the main building, and a description of the extensive duties devolving upon the dispenser and the medical attendant.

89. The buildings are undoubtedly defective, and their position is bad. The annual cost of their maintenance is about 1,500*l.* a year, and until the Colonial finances are in a better position the public revenue cannot bear a heavier charge.

90. I have always advocated the imposition of a poor rate for the support of this institution, on the ground that such a system

creates a direct interest in a community towards the reduction and prevention of pauperism and the efficient and economical management of establishments set apart for the reception of the sick and poor.

91. I hope that in time my views will recommend themselves to the House of Assembly.

92. The total number of inmates in the asylum during 1876 was 198. There were 116 admissions, 72 were discharged, and 53 died, leaving on the 31st December 1876, 73 inmates.

93. The rates of mortality seem very high, viz., 27 per cent. for 1876, 27 for 1875, and 30 per cent. for 1874; but it must be borne in mind that the asylum is a refuge for the worst cases of illness, destitution, and pauperism in the Colony, for the decrepit and aged, for consumptive, scrofulous, syphilitic, and cachectic constitutions, admitted in the most advanced stages of disease, as well as for accidents and the actually dying.

94. Amongst the lunatics six deaths occurred, all persons of exhausted constitutions.

95. There are six male and four female nurses. The head nurses are intelligent and useful.

Crime.

96. The criminal statistics for the year 1876 contrast unfavourably, both as regards the number and nature of the crimes, with those of 1875.

97. The returns for 1876, however, compare favourably with those of 1871 and 1872.

98. In 1876 there were 41 persons against whom informations ware laid in the General Court, whilst in 1875 there were 33.

99. Thirty-two convictions took place in 1876, against 21 in 1875. No less than 19 of the commitments last year were for offences against property other than malicious injuries. For the most part they were for larceny, obtaining goods by false pretences, and housebreaking. As the General Court has exclusive jurisdiction in all cases in which the value of the property stolen exceeds 40*s*., these cases appearing in the criminal calendar of the Superior Court is no criterion of their gravity. In fact, they were of a trivial character, and might very properly have been dealt with without the intervention of a jury.

100. Six convictions were for miscellaneous offences. There were thus only seven convictions for the graver offences of murder, manslaughter, rape, and offences against the person.

101. The case of murder was a very bad one, but it is satisfactory to report that both the culprit and his victim were strangers on board a vessel in this port, the former being an American negro, and the latter a white American. Death was caused by a blow on the head when the parties were on board together. The culprit having appropriated the deceased's watch, chain, and other valuables, threw the body overboard.

102. The murderer was hanged within the walls of the prison.

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103. The two persons convicted of manslaughter were sentenced, the one (a woman) to six months' imprisonment, and the other (a man) to 10 years' penal servitude.

104. Offences of the grave character to which I have specially referred being of the most exceptional occurrence in the Colony, I do not consider that the criminal statistics for the year 1876 give cause for any increased anxiety.

Gaol.

105. The statistical returns for 1876 show a large increase in the number of commitments for penal imprisonment as compared with the previous year. In 1875 there were 317 commitments, whilst last year there were 470.

106. This increase is principally owing to the fact that out-island prisoners whose sentences exceed one month in duration are now lodged in Nassau Gaol, instead of, as formerly, in the small local prisons. This practice ensures economy and a stricter discipline than has hitherto been maintained in the case of criminals in the out-islands.

107. The subsistence of such prisoners, when retained in the local prisons, exceeds by 50 per cent. the cost of their maintenance in the Nassau Gaol.

108. In 1876 101 prisoners were received from the out-islands, as against 39 in 1875 and 33 in 1874. With the exception of 17 who were convicted of disorderly conduct, the remainder were all convicted of predial larceny.

109. This offence is of so common a nature, and is such a hindrance to the honest labourer, that it is necessary to treat it severely. In many cases, however, the offenders were mere boys, who would be much more fitted to the discipline of a reformatory than of a gaol. I have brought the subject on one or two occasions before the Legislature, and in reply a hope has been expressed that in time it will be in their power to give effect to my views by the establishment of a reformatory where industrial training should be enforced.

110. The dietary, which seemed very liberal, was reduced by me, with the concurrence of the medical officer, in January, and no ill effects have resulted therefrom.

111. The expenditure on the establishment in 1876 (including the salaries of the keeper, physician, chaplain, and all the subordinate officers) was 2,095*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, against 1,846*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in 1875 and 1,991*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* in 1874.

112. The value of the labour of the prisoners on the public roads and elsewhere was estimated at 1,356*l.*

113. There have been no escapes during the last three years.

114. In the course of 1876, 60 prisoners were re-committed once, 43 twice, and 166 thrice and oftener.

115. On the 4th February an execution, to which I have referred under the head of crime, took place within the gaol. There has only been one other execution within the last 11 years, and that was of a Spaniard.

116. A sugar mill, at a cost of about 50*l.*, was imported by me for use in the prison at the end of the year, and put into successful operation. The first 300 canes ground yielded 96 lbs. of sugar; the next 1,000 yielded 225 lbs. of sugar and 10 gallons of syrup.

117. At the beginning of 1876 the question of manufacturing sugar in the Colony would have been considered a very problematical one, but there are now six small mills at work, and there is a good prospect of the industry being extended and proving a source of employment to the labouring population.

118. The introduction of a mill into the prison will tend to qualify prisoners for this description of labour, and the knowledge thus acquired will doubtless facilitate their obtaining employment on their discharge.

Education.

119. During the year 1876 there were 33 Government schools in operation, attended by 3,472 scholars, and maintained at a cost (including the cost of inspection, &c.) of 2,400*l.*

120. In the month of December the number of scholars on the books was 2,805. It is estimated that there are 10,808 children in the Colony between the ages of 4 and 14; of these 2,805 are on the books of Government schools, and 1,314 in attendance at other schools.

121. The isolated position of the various Islands, the sparseness of the population, and the indifference of the parents, render the efficient government of the schools a very great difficulty.

122. The vote is insufficient to meet the demands upon it under the present system, which is, to my mind, not the best that could be adopted, but the Inspector of Schools informs me that no other British Colony spends so large a per-centage of its entire revenue on education as the Bahamas.

123. So far as Nassau, Dunmore Town, and the other principal settlements are concerned, it would be possible to give effect to a law making attendance at school compulsory, but I fear that such an enactment would simply be a dead letter in many of the out-islands.

124. In October 1875 the standards of attainments introduced into England in 1863 were adopted in this Colony. The new system has worked satisfactorily, and improved educational results have accrued therefrom. In referring to educational matters at the opening of Parliament, I said the "Board of Education simply "administers the grant on lines laid down by legislative enact- "ment. It has not, therefore, the power of testing whether the "vote (as a whole) could be more profitably expended."

125. The salaries of the 25 teachers on the out-islands amount to 1,366*l.*, the rental of the school-house, cost of books, &c., to at least 250*l.* more, making a total of 1,616*l.*

126. Having adopted the basis of classification in force in England, it seems to me that it would be advisable to go a step further, and I propose as vacancies occur to pay to each newly

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appointed teacher a smaller fixed stipend than is now attached to those appointments, and to supplement it by a capitation rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* a head, or thereabouts, for each child receiving regular instruction in the Government schools.

127. There can be little doubt, I imagine, that masters would, in consequence of the adoption of some such system, be stimulated to much greater exertion, and would not only endeavour to raise the standard of education, but to increase the number of scholars.

128. It is my intention to bring the matter to the notice of the Board of Education, in the hope that it will consent to a trial, even on a limited scale, of a system of part payment of salaries by results, and I anticipate that it will work well and economically.

Agriculture.

129. It is satisfactory to be able to report to your Lordship that there has been a slow but nevertheless considerable improvement in the agricultural position and prospects of the Colony since I assumed the administration of this Government.

130. In every visit that I have made to the out-islands I have impressed upon the people the necessity of adding to their own welfare and to the welfare of the Colony by increased exertion.

131. In endeavouring to help the needy to help themselves, the Board of Agriculture has been supported by the Legislature, the clergy, and other persons of position and authority in the Colony, and though the progress has not been rapid, substantial results have nevertheless been achieved.

132. Premiums to the amount of 30*l.* 18*s.* were awarded at the Agricultural Show held in February 1876. In addition to this expenditure, 3*l.* were awarded by the Board for tobacco, 7*l.* for sugar-cane planted out, 29*l.* for cocoanuts set out, and 25*l.* for Lisbon lemon trees. The Board also made a grant of 15*l.* towards the establishment of an industrial class at Harbour Island in connexion with the public school in that settlement.

133. The culture of Bermuda arrowroot has been proved to be easy, and I have offered a premium of 25*l.* for the first five acres grown and manufactured into the arrowroot of commerce.

134. Several applications have been received from Canada by the Board of Agriculture for samples of lime juice, an industry which I am convinced could be set on foot in the Bahamas with advantage. The example set in Montserrat, which has been raised from a state of depression to one of comparative prosperity by the cultivation of the lime and the manufacture of lime juice, is one to which I have on several occasions directed the attention of the leading merchants in this city.

135. The planting of tobacco is being undertaken on a large scale, and with the liberal assistance given by your Lordship, I hope in the course of the year to have a qualified person under Government control, whose duty it will be to give instruction in the curing and fermentation of the leaf.

136. The Board of Agriculture has already sent to a firm of

Colonial brokers in London 1,000 cigars as samples. They are extremely well made, and their only defect is some slight failure in the fermentation of the leaf, which with proper instruction can be avoided in future.

137. The success which has attended the cultivation of tobacco and manufacture of cigars in Jamaica should, and I believe will, stimulate the people to make a similar experiment here with a fair chance of success.

138. Reports as to their agricultural position and prospects have been received from nearly two-thirds of the outlying settlements of this Government, and, so far as I can estimate, the following crops have been planted in 17 settlements within the last 18 months:—

Cocoanuts - - - -	19,000
Cotton - - - -	246 acres.
E. I. castor oil - - -	23 „
Tobacco - - - -	24 „
Sugar-cane - - - -	100 „
Tomatoes - - - -	4 „

139. This is far short of what has actually been done throughout the Colony, as from several of the larger settlements I have received no returns, neither have I any clue as to what has been effected on many cays belonging to private parties not easily accessible.

140. This return also does not include any mention of 3,000 Lisbon lemon trees planted in New Providence and in Grand Bahama. Neither has it as yet been possible to ascertain the exact extent of increased cultivation, undoubtedly very large, which has taken place in this Island.

141. Six sugar mills were imported into the Colony last year, and to supply the demand thus created, a very great extension of cane cultivation is taking place. Tomatoes were exported from here to Savannah, I believe for the first time, by a very enterprising and assiduous agriculturist during the course of last year. He shipped 20 boxes containing half a bushel each, and they returned him a profit of from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a box.

142. A much better market could doubtless be found for them in New York and Baltimore, and if a sufficient quantity were raised, a remunerative business could be carried on between Nassau and those ports from the end of December till the middle of April.

143. The cultivation of this vegetable is engaging the attention of the farmers at Rock Sound, Savannah Sound, and Governor's Harbour, and see no reason why, with proper application, it should not be in every way successful.

144. On the whole it may be asserted with some confidence that those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits at length have been brought to acknowledge that it is absolutely necessary that they should have some other cultivation than pineapples to depend upon. The frequent and heavy losses which growers of pines sustain ought at once to be, and must ultimately be, an

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inducement to them to venture upon some new and less risky industry.

145. The people at the Biminis, St. Salvador, and Eleuthera have been among the first to recognise this fact.

146. It should always be remembered by those who complain of the little progress made in the direction of new industries, that the planter has great difficulties to encounter owing to the nature of the land and the sparseness of labour.

147. Those also who inveigh against the indolent propensities of the coloured population should recollect that there is no better poor man's land in the world than the Bahamas.

148. When a man has earned 3*d.* or 4*d.*, he has enough to supply his daily wants, and as most of the people are small freeholders, there is not that incentive to labour which exists in more populous countries. A man with a small lot of his own has no difficulty, if the seasons are fairly propitious, in raising ground provisions, which with the help of a little fish or homested pork occasionally, are sufficient to maintain without exertion a whole family. In bad seasons he has been hitherto accustomed to receive help from Government.

149. The out-islanders and others have, however, been distinctly told by my Circular of the 18th September 1875 that in times of distress the Government will not any longer "assist those who "by more industry and a greater measure of self-help are able "to help themselves." The number of persons satisfied with this hand-to-mouth kind of existence is, I hope, decreasing. There are undoubtedly many instances in which the negro is endeavouring to emulate that industry, that economy, and that perseverance which is a typical feature of the lower orders in less favoured countries.

150. The future position of the Colony depends on the energy, enterprise, and self-reliance of its inhabitants, and fully three-fourths are black or coloured, and are, as a rule, proprietors of the soil.

151. The future position of the negro in these Islands, and doubtless in other West Indian Colonies, is a matter which must be decided by his own exertions. With a fair education offered to him by the Government, it appears to me that the more he avails himself of it, and the more steadily and continuously he adheres to his craft, or endeavours to earn a competence from the cultivation of his freehold, and the export of those fruits and cereals which grow here so readily, the greater will be the prosperity of the Colony and the nearer will he be to the attainment of that position of equality and independence which he very properly desires, and which is already yielded to those of his race who have fitted themselves for it by the exercise of industry, frugality, and honesty, and above all by reliance upon themselves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 6.

Governor J. POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the Blue Book of St. Vincent for 1875, with Mr. Dundas's report upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, St. Vincent,
April 22, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the St. Vincent Blue Book for 1875.

2. I reserve for a future mail my Report upon this Blue Book. It has just been completed and placed in my hands. Were I to detain it for a period sufficient to enable me to prepare the necessary report, a delay, which I am unwilling should take place, would occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

His Excellency Governor Hennessy, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, St. Vincent,
May 4, 1876.

SIR,

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Excellency by the last mail the St. Vincent Blue Book for 1875. I have now the honour to make my report upon it.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of the Island collected in 1875 was 27,852*l.* The revenue of the preceding year was 27,441*l.*

3. The expenditure for 1875 was 29,693*l.*, against 29,788*l.* in 1874.

4. While the actual expenditure somewhat exceeded the actual revenue, the cash balance in hand at the Treasury much more than covered this difference.

ST. VINCENT.

5. The following statement displays the financial position of the Colony on the 1st of January last:—

Financial Statement.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
General cash balance from 1875 - -	4,427	5	5	Due to depositors in savings bank - -	4,007	1	6
In hands of Crown agents, London - -	498	7	2	Due to Commissioners of Public Lands, &c. -	620	11	3
Advances to be recouped:							
To sufferers by flood in September 1875 -	139	15	0				
To Immigration Fund	2,003	8	7	Surplus of assets -	9,334	19	2
To town of Kingstown:							
Waterworks account	6,832	9	6				
Ordinary current account - -	61	6	3				
	£13,962	11	11		£13,962	11	11

Public Debt.

6. The Colony is free from debt. At December 31st the Immigration Fund owed to the general revenue 2,003*l.*, and the town of Kingstown was indebted to it in the sum of 6,893*l.*

Military Expenditure.

7. The sum of 144*l.* only has been expended during the past year under this head. By it are covered the salaries of the garrison adjutant and the bandmaster, the expenses connected with the band, and other small contingencies.

8. The only sum paid from the Imperial Exchequer was 1,300*l.*, the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Public Works.

9. A comparatively small sum of money was appropriated in 1875 to new public works. The principal part of the sum expended was in the completion of works previously commenced.

10. The new gaol, referred to by Mr. Laborde in his report on the Blue Book of 1874, was nearly completed. There is, probably, no prison in the West Indies more convenient for its size or more healthy than this.

11. The police barrack was completed, and the police were moved into it in April 1875. The fire-engine room, magazine, and lavatories, &c. were constructed in the year, and but little remains for the completion of this work. The building is handsome, well proportioned, and convenient.

12. The old commissariat store at Edinburgh has had a considerable sum expended upon it with the view of fitting it as an hospital. I have already reported to your Excellency that I have paused in the execution of this design. The building, however, which is large and commodious, has been made perfectly weather-proof.

13. The court house, which was in a state of great dilapidation, is still in the hands of the workmen. When the repairs in which they are engaged are completed, this public building will be restored, and be again a credit to the Colony.

14. A building has been purchased in Calliaqua as a police station, police court, and revenue office, in lieu of the former premises, which were rented for the purpose. This building is being fitted up, but the contractor has not yet handed it over to the Government, although the police are now occupying it, and the magistrate holds his sittings in it. A sum of 240*l.* was expended on this building in 1875.

15. On all these works 3,010*l.* have been expended in the year.

16. A short new line of roadway at Arnos Vale, to include a bridge over the Warrawarrou River, was determined on by the Government, and obtained legislative sanction in the past year. This work is in progress of formation under the superintendence of Mr. Osment, the Colonial Engineer, who recently entered on his duties. A sum of 238*l.* was expended on this road in 1875.

17. The bridge above referred to replaces one of two erected in 1872, which were carried away in 1874. The re-erection of the other bridge, at Colonarie, is not yet undertaken.

18. A much larger sum than the usual annual grant of 1,300*l.* could, with advantage, be spent in the improvement of the highways. In the year under report 1,939*l.* were expended for this purpose.

19. "The Garden," the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, is a single-storied building of wood, beautifully situated about a mile from town, in what was once "the Botanical Garden." From the perishable nature of the materials of which the house is constructed it requires constant repair. For this purpose the sum of 149*l.* only was expended in 1875.

Legislation.

20. Nine Acts were passed during the session of the Legislative Assembly of 1875. Of these, far the most important was "An "Act to alter and amend the Political Constitution." This Act, which passed the Legislature unanimously, virtually made St. Vincent a Crown Colony.

21. The new Constitution has not, however, as yet been proclaimed, though Her Majesty's approval of it has been announced by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

22. The Act next in importance to this was "An Act to repeal the Imports Tariff Act, 1873." This re-imposed on salted fish and breadstuffs the duties which had been removed in 1873 by my predecessor, Mr. Rennie, with the view of cheapening the food of the people. Two years' experience, however, proved that these hopes were fallacious. Food was not cheapened, and a considerable revenue was lost. By re-imposing these duties, which are very trifling, viz., 4*s.* a barrel on flour, and 1*s.* 0½*d.* a cwt. on salt fish, the Government has arranged to remit a house tax, a duty on traders, and some other direct taxes which were much complained of.

ST. VINCENT.

23. Six months' experience of the new system is attended with satisfactory results. The food of the people is no dearer than it was.

Executive Council.

24. Two changes occurred in the composition of the Executive Council during last yoar. On the 16th of July I invited Mr. Cheesman to a seat in Council, and shortly after Mr. Musson, the Auditor of Accounts, tendered his resignation, which was accepted. At present the numbers are two official and six un-official members.

Civil Establishment.

25. On the 3rd of February 1875 I assumed the administration of the Government of the Island, relieving Mr. Laborde, who had temporarily administered it.

26. I accepted the resignation of Dr. Mara, and appointed in his room, as surgeon of the 3rd district, Dr. Richard Snagg. Mr. Eugene McDonnell, the Colonial Engineer, received an appointment in Ceylon, and left the Island in December. Mr Osment, who was appointed to the vacancy by the Secretary of State, arrived, and assumed the duties of his office in this year. The absence on leave of Mr. Hawtayne, police magistrate of Kingstown, has caused some temporary changes, namely, Mr. Allan Lewis has been acting as magistrate, Mr. Manning as Colonial Registrar, and Mr. Newton Browne as Colonial Postmaster.

Pensions.

27. The only pensions of considerable amount are those paid to Mr. John Reily and Mr. McDowall. The former is 242*l.* 8*s.*, the latter 65*l.* 5*s.* Mr. Reily was a public servant in the Colony for 27 years. During that time he acted as magistrate. Mr. McDowall was also a magistrate for about 10 years. Six other pensions, of inconsiderable amounts, were paid.

Population and Health.

28. The population was increased in the last year by 526 from excess of births over deaths. The births were 1,734, excluding stillbirths, which numbered 118. The deaths were 1,208. The birth rate for the year was 45 per 1,000; the death rate 31 per 1,000. In 1874 these rates were 44 and 27 per 1,000.

29. The proportion of deaths of infants under one year of age was 22·6. In 1872, 1873, and 1874 it was 27·3, 25·3, and 24 respectively. The deaths of children of all ages under 15 years was 53·8; in the previous three years it was 54·6, 55, and 54·7.

30. The prevalence of fever, and of diseases of the lungs and stomach, principally caused the increased mortality.

31. There were 282 marriages, of which 58 per cent. were performed by the Anglican ministers, 32 per cent. by the Wesleyan, and 10 per cent. by the Roman Catholic ministers.

32. The medical officers reported that 962 successful vaccinations had been performed.

33. Three hundred and thirty-four immigrants arrived from India in the month of January, and the harbour master noted the arrival of 1,344 persons of the labouring class from the neighbouring Islands, and the departure of 723. The Registrar General reported that the population at 31st December 1874 might be estimated at 38,242; adding to these figures the natural increase in 1875, and the known immigration from India, the population at the end of the past year may be taken to have been 39,000, irrespective of the probable addition from the Islands, as shown by the harbour master.

34. Forty-five coolie immigrants left the Island in the autumn in order to return to India, their term of industrial residence having expired. They were sent to Demerara by steamer, and embarked thence in the "Rohilla" for Calcutta. Their safe arrival at Calcutta has been notified. These people took with them, as the result of their savings, a very considerable sum of money, including silver ornaments purchased by them. Their treasure was probably not much under 1,000*l.* The health of the coolie population continues to be, as reported by Mr. Rennie in 1872, "extraordinarily good."

35. I observe that Mr. Rennie, in his report of the year 1873, comments on the loss by emigration to Trinidad of no less than 700 or 800 labourers. I have endeavoured to ascertain, as accurately as possible, if the Island was still sustaining this loss by emigration. From returns made to me I am satisfied that during last year there was no loss of population.

36. As regards the inducements offered in Trinidad in the shape of "the eventual acquisition of land," alluded to by Mr. Rennie, I question if it has proved "the tempting bait" he believed it to have been. One intelligent coolie, certainly, after visiting Trinidad returned hither, and dissuaded many of his country people from seeking their fortunes there.

37. Mr. Rennie, in his report of 1873, says he was "considering the advisability of bringing the Crown lands of the interior "into the market," with the view, doubtless, of creating a large body of peasant proprietors. There is much reason to question the success of such a scheme, even if it could be carried out, as it is more than probable that much of the unalienated Crown lands in the interior are too wild, barren, and rocky for profitable occupation.

Savings Bank.

38. At the close of 1875 there were 474 depositors in the savings bank, the usefulness of which is becoming better known, although its value is not yet sufficiently appreciated by the humbler classes, for whose benefit, chiefly, the institution was founded, and of whom only 227 were depositors. Interest at the rate of 3 per cent. is guaranteed by Government to depositors, who are required to give 10 days' notice before withdrawing any portion of their deposits. In some instances, however, the treasurer has found it convenient to relax this rule. The total sum of 4,007*l.* was on deposit at the 31st of December 1875.

Education.

39. The educational returns for 1875 give the number of scholars as 3,305. In 1873, the first complete year during which the present Education Act was in operation, the numbers were 2,400. The schools in 1875 numbered 60. The expenditure on education during the year has been 2,578*l.* Of this sum the revenue contributed 1,386*l.*, 594*l.* were voluntary contributions, and 598*l.* were paid in school fees.

40. The remuneration of the school teachers is too small to secure the services of persons possessing any high qualification. They have it, however, in their power, by gaining the confidence of parents, to add to the attendance of scholars, and thus materially to increase their incomes. The educational standard is low, not extending further than the most elementary principles.

41. The schools are annually visited by Mr. Bennett, who, to the duties of Immigration Agent, adds that of Inspector of Schools. The report which he submitted at the close of the year was not unsatisfactory.

Imports and Exports.

42. The value of imported articles for consumption in 1875 amounted to 152,081*l.*, and for exportation 5,974*l.* These figures closely approximate to those of the previous year.

43. The produce of the Colony exported amounted in value to 200,444*l.* The amount in 1874 was 195,922*l.*

44. I subjoin a tabular statement of the quantities and values of the principal of these products:—

Articles.	Quantities.	Value.
		£ s. d.
Sugar - - - - -	21,903,728 lbs. -	133,606 10 0
Rum - - - - -	198,180 gallons -	22,017 10 0
Molasses - - - -	120,240 „ -	4,008 0 0
Arrowroot - - - -	2,608,100 lbs. -	35,674 10 0
Cocoa - - - - -	6,640 „ -	126 0 0
Cotton - - - - -	48,608 „ -	1,736 0 0

Shipping.

45. The vessels entered during the past year were 409, the gross tonnage of which was 24,385. This was in excess of the previous year by 38 vessels, with a gross tonnage of 21,661. There was a decrease of imports from Great Britain in 1875; six ships came thence direct in ballast.

46. Four hundred and three vessels cleared outwards, the gross tonnage of which was 23,711. The corresponding numbers in 1874 were 364 and 20,949.

Agricultural.

47. The estimated total extent of the Colony is about 94,000 acres. Of this, rather less than one half, namely, 40,000, is estimated to be under cultivation, the remainder being rocky, mountainous, and waste.

48. Sugar-cane forms the largest agricultural industry. Several proprietors, however, cultivate arrowroot to a considerable extent, and the peasantry also turn their attention greatly to its cultivation and manufacture. On the leeward coast a little cocoa is grown, and in the Grenadines some cotton.

49. As regards sugar, I regret to say that the prospects of the planter are by no means bright. The best and most economical managers complain that prices are not remunerative, and speak gloomily of being compelled to throw their estates out of cultivation, at least as regards sugar.

50. I am at a loss to understand why the proprietor of land in St. Vincent should not turn his attention to raising, on at least some portion of his property, a produce more profitable than sugar. The demand for arrowroot may at home be limited, and the market consequently might be easily glutted. There is, however, cocoa, which could not easily be overdone. In Grenada its cultivation is very profitable, and the glens and gullies of this Island seem well adapted for its cultivation. Were attention paid to the rearing of nutmeg trees, cinnamon, and clove, these too would pay well. It takes, however, several years for a nutmeg or a cocoa tree to mature and bear fruit. When in full bearing the nutmeg trees are reckoned to be worth 1*l.* a year each. It is possible, also, that indigo would prove a profitable crop. It grows wild in abundance, but I learn that the gathering in of indigo is a very unhealthy occupation.

51. St. Vincent formerly possessed in the fruit of the cocoanut tree a valuable and profitable product. About 25 years ago, however, a blight affected the palms, from which they have never recovered. There are now a few, but very few, cocoanut palms in St. Vincent, notwithstanding many attempts have been made to grow them.

Crimes and Prisoners.

52. The number of convictions, as I have already recently reported, greatly exceeded in 1875 those of the previous year, the numbers being 1,593 against 1,008. It is difficult to account satisfactorily for this increase of crime. It may be borne in mind, however, that few of the crimes committed were of a very heinous nature. The committals to gaol were 337, of whom only 16 were on convictions by the superior courts. One execution for murder took place; a coolie was the criminal.

53. The cost of the prison establishment in 1875 was 504*l.*

Hospitals and Asylums.

54. The building which is at present used as the Colonial Hospital, though well and conveniently situated, is too small for

ST. VINCENT.

the purpose. It had been intended to adapt a large stone building some little distance out of Kingstown as an hospital. This intention, however, was not carried out because of the unsuitableness and inaccessibility of the position, and the large sum which would further be required to fit the building (which was originally a commissariat store) as an hospital.

55. During 1875, 279 males and 86 females were treated in the Colonial Hospital, and 27 deaths took place, of which eight were those of females.

56. Fourteen operations, requiring great skill and attention, were performed. All have resulted favourably.

57. It is difficult to over-estimate the usefulness of this institution, especially to the lower orders, who when sick or ailing are, if destitute of means, admitted free into the Colonial Hospital, and during their stay receive food and medical comforts without charge. The institution is under the able and judicious management of Dr. Sandford Arnott, who has charge also of the lunatic asylum.

Lunatic Asylum.

58. This institution, as described by Mr. Rennie, in his report on the Blue Book for 1873, is only of a temporary nature. It was expected that the lunatics from St. Vincent would be received in the Bardados asylum on the completion of the proposed new building there. This expectation is still entertained. In the meantime the barracks at Fort Charlotte are used for the accommodation of lunatics. The situation is healthy, and the lunatics have large and airy apartments. The daily average number of lunatics in 1875 was 12, of which seven were females. Two deaths took place during the year.

Meteorological.

59. The climate of St. Vincent seems to be a particularly healthy one. For at least eight months in the year a steady trade wind from the north-east blows across the Island, tempering the heat and dissipating noxious exhalations. At "the Garden" in Kingstown Valley, and 300 feet above the sea, the thermometer only once in 1875 touched 90°. The maximum range is about 85°, falling 10° at night. The lowest point touched was 68°.

60. The rainfall at the Garden in 1875 was 115 inches. In one day, the 9th of September, probably 12 inches of rain fell. The overflowing of the gauge, however, rendered the reading inaccurate.

61. Several slight shocks of earthquake were felt in September. They, however, caused no damage.

62. During the summer months there were several severe thunderstorms, no wind of any violence, however, accompanied these storms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

His Excellency Governor Hennessy, C.M.G.,

&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

No. 7.

Lieutenant-Governor GRAHAM, to GOVERNOR HENNESSY, C.M.G.

SIR, Grenada, October 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to send to you my Report on the Blue Book for 1875.

It has been delayed because I was seeking for certain additional statistics, which I have since obtained, and which cannot fail to give a further interest to the ordinary form of our returns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CYRIL C. GRAHAM.

His Excellency J. Pope Hennessy, C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

I treat the subjects as nearly as possible in the same order in which they appear in the Blue Book itself.

In the first place, therefore, I give an abstract of the revenue and expenditure, together with a comparative statement, of the last four years.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - - -	11,582	9	1
Tonnage - - - -	684	12	1
Excise - - - -	3,542	17	2
Licenses - - - -	1,864	0	6
Fees and fines - - - -	1,682	8	3
Post Office - - - -	311	7	3
Assessed taxes - - - -	3,044	1	10
Stamp Act - - - -	633	16	8
Sale of escheated properties and Government lands and buildings - -	1,495	13	6
Loans - - - - -	1,500	0	0
Miscellaneous - - - -	228	6	5
	£26,569	12	9

yielding a nominal surplus of 1,553*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, 1,299*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* of which, however, is derived from the sale of escheated properties;

GRENADA.

and we must be prepared whenever a claim upon any one of them shall be made good to refund a portion of the sum thus carried to the account of the Treasury.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Civil - - - -	3,795	5	7
Judicial - - - -	3,717	19	7
Ecclesiastical - - -	1,825	13	4
Legislative - - -	636	10	1
Education - - -	1,352	10	0
Sanitary and poor relief - -	3,894	17	0
Police and gaols - -	3,365	1	2
Roads and works - -	3,285	18	11
Inland post - - -	419	2	1
Repayment of loans and interest -	1,090	0	0
Telegraph - - -	911	6	11
Miscellaneous - - -	722	0	10
	£25,016	5	6

Making a comparison between the revenue and the expenditure of the last three years, it will be found that 1875 has been financially very prosperous.

Public Debt.

Under this head I beg to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the old debt contracted in 1858—namely, 7,000*l.* at four per cent.—may practically be said to be extinguished, one twentieth, or 350*l.*, were annually remitted to England and invested in consols to form a sinking fund until June 1872, since which time the interest upon this deposit has sufficed to raise the fund to 7,664*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* The debt is not repayable until July 1, 1878, by which date it may be presumed, without any further remissions, beyond, of course, the interest, that more than a sufficient sum will have been accumulated to meet the required 7,000*l.*

Another debt contracted at the end of December 1874, of 2,000*l.* I hope to see cancelled on the 31st December proximo; 1,000*l.* have already been repaid, and we shall have no difficulty at the end of the financial year in providing for the remainder.

Population.

The increase during the last 10 years is satisfactory.

It may be said to be exclusively internal. Since 1866 no coolies have been imported; on the contrary, an exodus of them has taken place, chiefly in the directions of Trinidad and Demerara. In their stead we have received comparatively few strangers from the neighbouring Islands, or during that interval have we obtained any important consignments from Africa.

I should here mention that I believe planters are unanimous in their preference of the pure African over every other class of labourer. He is diligent, works hard, is docile, and endures more labour than either the Indian or the Creole. The expense of the importation of Asiatics, coupled with the stringent rules concerning them, harass the planter. The greatest boon to us undoubtedly would be an interchange of free labour between the various Islands of the West Indies; and I scarcely have need to draw your Excellency's attention to the source whence we could derive our greatest benefit.

I am considering a scheme for the establishment of Post Office savings banks. You are aware that my predecessor framed a system of internal postage; letters are transmitted daily with a penny stamp to all parts of the Island, and weekly to the Grenadines.

I have so far developed the process that money orders at the expense of 2*d.* may be sent with equal facility. During the first year of this experiment, the Exchequer naturally suffered a loss, the difficulty of carriage over a country where everything is taken by messengers on foot, and where the people were not yet accustomed to the boon of regular communication, reducing the profit which we hope in future to reap.

A little steamer, which was introduced in the autumn of 1875, is now carrying the mails on the Leeward side; and when the larger steamer shall arrive from England, the itinerant postmen will have to seek employment elsewhere.

I take this occasion to pay a tribute to the enterprise of our leading capitalists to whom we are indebted for the first effort to make intercommunication more easy and much more expeditious.

The natives avail themselves to an extent hardly expected of this novel mode of locomotion; they will come in the morning from the distant parishes, do their business in town, and return refreshed and the richer by their excursion in the evening.

Although I am departing from the subjects which it is my duty to treat, your Excellency will forgive me if I express a wish that in the next report which may be sent to the Secretary of State a yet wider scheme may find a place. An inter-insular line could not fail to benefit all the Colonies, and connected with it another inestimable result might be achieved, a tariff of 1*d.* per letter in in lieu of the exorbitant charge now in force of 6*d.* This high price causes the packing of correspondence, besides reluctance of the poorer classes, who can find no friendly envelope to sacrifice so large an amount on a bit of paper written to their friends elsewhere with difficulty.

Imports and Exports.

The total of imports was 118,385*l.* against 106,636*l.*, and the exports 170,879*l.* against 158,866*l.* in 1874.

GRENADA.

Education.

From an interesting table which is appended, you will see that during the last three years the total number of children who have been in attendance at the various schools receiving aid from the Government has risen steadily.

The normal and grammar schools in the town of St. George, under the conduct of a very able head master, Mr. Wilson, who I regret to say leaves us in December, afford a good education respectively to boys of ages varying from 10 say to 16.

The provincial schools would deserve greater praise from me were not the grants which we can afford to allow to the masters frittered away by division between two and often amongst three sects.

Could any compromise be made, so that in each parish one central school might be accepted, the ministers of the respective denominations taking charge of the spiritual welfare of their congregation, it would be in our power to secure the services of a really efficient teacher, who might at least impart to his pupils the elements of knowledge.

Shipping.

As a supplement to the tables given on pages 262 and 263, showing 390 sailing vessels, with an aggregate of 13,944 tons and 1,844 crew (British), entered in this port from Europe, America, and the other Windward Islands, and 337 foreign, with an aggregate of 11,975 tons and 1,576 crew, it gives me great pleasure to bring to your notice the fact that Grenada and its dependencies possess no less than 26 sloops and three schooners, which are employed to a great extent in traffic between this place, Barbados, and Trinidad. Carriacou, which I may call our dockyard, builds the majority of these little craft, which have an average tonnage of 19.

Lands.

The unsatisfactory feature in this year's return is the schedule which purports to give an account of our acreage. The whole area of Grenada is computed at 85,000 acres, 30,000 of which are returned as cultivated, 25,000 as uncultivated, leaving an inconceivable margin of unreturned and uncultivated property.

I need not tell you that the comparison startled me, and I was not satisfied by the answers to my inquiries, that the whole system of investigation was defective.

I am preparing a remedy, and, if I may use the expression, I shall have a rigid "census" next year of the horned cattle, goats, sheep, horses, mules, and asses.

Your Excellency is aware that, thanks to its supply of water, the valleys of Grenada afford abundant pasturage, and that the demands of Trinidad for beef are increasing monthly. Many far-seeing people are undertaking stockfarming, a business which ought to give a great return.

Taking the vegetable products in order, I will enumerate amongst them (1) cacao, (2) coffee, both of which have taken kindly to our soil. The yield from them is immense, and as neither of them is likely to decrease in value the more they are encouraged, the better it will be for those who take the trouble to put them in the ground. The sugar-cane, almost a drug in the market, prospers only on the shores, and it will be well for those who own property here to supplant it by a more productive investment.

Then spices of many kinds notably occupy our attention. Nutmeg, which from four to five years after its insertion in the ground gives an increase of from 15 to 20 per cent. upon the capital and labour bestowed, and one of its great advantages is that it requires the minimum of labour. Hitherto it has met with no disaster or disease such as it has experienced in the Indian Archipelago. The trees, not very numerous, are sufficiently isolated; with good air and the minutest attention, they grow and surprise the grower by the rapidity of their returns. Cinnamon, cloves, and many other spices flourish here, as would almost every tropical tree, either indigenous or extraneous.

I am in constant communication with Dr. Hooker, who suggests to me and sends even to me, various things which may decorate and add wealth to our Island. To his kindness I am also indebted for many pieces of advice concerning our agriculture; and I trust soon to engage a competent botanist, and while I am touching on this subject I should inform your Excellency that I am in communication with a geologist to whom I wish to refer the mysteries of our mineralogy. The principal features of the rocks show a volcanic origin, but unless I am much mistaken, as I had the honour to represent to the late Assembly at their last meeting, I have reason to suspect that mineral wealth, especially iron, will be discovered. As I said before, the Island abounds in waters, rivers, and burns, amply supplied with fishes, the most estimable amongst them being the so-called "mullet," really a species of the salmon, for he frequents equally the fresh and salt water. He weighs from 2 to 5 or 6 lbs., and his flesh is excellent.

I should exhaust your Excellency's patience if I enumerated at the present moment the remaining catalogue of the river fish.

The sea fish are of the same description as those which are found in the adjoining Islands, Barbados excepted, which only boasts of that peculiar creature known especially there and in the open Atlantic as the flying fish.

With all these advantages, fruits, if properly cultivated, viz., the mango, imported from the east, degenerated greatly from its ancestors, yet affording nourishment and daily food during half of the year to the mass of our population, oranges and limes, excellent but neglected, and a rarity of others, might with careful training enrich us. As Dr. Hooker says with truth, "It is a mistake to suppose that cultivation in the tropics should be neglected." Unless attention is paid to vegetation it will deteriorate as rapidly as elsewhere.

Gaols, Hospitals, &c.

I am glad to give so favourable a return of all of these. The amount of crime, allowing for the increase of population, has diminished, and the greatest culprit we have in our prison is a Hindoo, who has now been confined for four years for a violent assault.

The health of the Colony is good; the principal diseases are remittent fever, ague, diarrhœa, and dysentery, from the two latter of which children under the age of two years often perish. When we get a larger staff of physicians we may expect to see a rapid diminution of our infantile mortality.

In conclusion, I beg to express to your Excellency my hope and conviction that under a responsible executive a new era of prosperity may be opened to Grenada.

Enclosure 1.

Legislation.

During the early portion of 1875 the Legislature passed a few remaining Acts to complete the consolidation of the laws. Only two other Acts call for special comment, one a "Stamp Act" and the other "An Act to amend and simplify the Legislature of the Island of Grenada." The former would have considerably augmented the revenues of the Colony but for the fact that the rates imposed by the schedule are as a rule fixed at a very low figure. Apart, however, from its being a source of revenue, it will prove a valuable check on the collection of fees by public officers, as provision is made by which the Governor may require such fees to be paid in stamps. The remaining Act is one of the greatest importance as a single Chamber, consisting of nine nominees and eight elective members, is substituted for the old Council and Assembly.

The same reasons which actuate most of the sister Colonies to abrogate the dual chambers applied with equal force to Grenada, and the House of Assembly, to its honour be it said, *ex mero motu* passed the measure by which at any rate the better government of the Colony is secured.

Enclosure 2.

Education.

Table showing the number of children who have been in attendance at the various schools receiving aid from the Government for the past three years.

Years.	Grammar School.	Normal School.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
1873	—	114	961	343	762	2,180
1874	36	103	1,050	314	768	2,271
1875	36	120	1,114	500	581	2,351

Enclosure 1A.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE.

Establishments.	1872.			1873.			1874.			1875.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Civil - -	3,869	8	9	3,745	6	0	4,086	14	10	3,795	5	7
Judicial - -	3,812	13	2	3,757	16	7	3,944	10	0	3,717	19	7
Ecclesiastical -	2,011	0	0	2,006	0	0	1,981	13	4	1,825	13	4
Legislative - -	660	3	7	630	4	5	638	0	0	636	10	1
Education - -	1,315	18	4	975	4	2	1,243	8	4	1,352	10	0
Sanitary and poor relief - -	4,591	13	10	3,177	6	1	3,473	3	7	3,894	17	0
Police and gaols -	3,196	14	9	3,314	4	2	3,050	4	6	3,365	1	2
Roads and works -	5,186	9	4	8,044	12	1	4,893	7	0	3,285	18	11
Inland post - -	-	-	-	252	5	7	310	5	8	419	2	1
Repayment of loans -	-	-	-	-	-	-	515	0	0	1,090	0	0
Telegraph - -	-	-	-	136	16	0	-	-	-	911	6	11
Revision and compilation of laws -	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	0	0	←		
Miscellaneous -	1,337	13	4	1,185	0	9	1,253	5	6	722	0	10
Total -	25,981	15	1	27,224	15	10	25,729	12	9	25,016	5	6

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT of REVENUE.

———	1872.			1873.			1874.			1875.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs - -	11,556	2	9	10,896	4	0	8,628	8	6	11,582	9	1
Tonnage - -	652	18	8	636	4	1	584	6	1	684	12	1
Excise - -	4,920	17	1	5,132	12	1	4,422	2	8	3,542	17	2
Licenses - -	2,046	11	0	2,186	5	6	1,856	4	0	1,864	0	6
Fees and fines -	2,093	6	1	2,121	9	3	2,061	3	8	1,682	8	3
Post Office - -	203	15	4	351	9	0	295	3	5	311	7	3
Assessed taxes -	2,524	13	3	2,323	5	9	2,701	16	10	3,044	1	10
Stamps - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	633	16	8
Escheated estates -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,009	5	8	1,495	13	6
Loans - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0
Miscellaneous -	529	4	0	1,834	2	10	344	19	0	228	6	5
Total -	24,527	8	2	25,481	12	6	23,403	9	10	26,569	12	9

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No. 8.

Governor J. POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Barbados, July 1, 1876.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Tobago for the year 1875, together with a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor, containing a report upon it.

2. I am glad to be able to draw your Lordship's attention to the marked improvement, as compared with previous years, exhibited in the financial transactions of the year under review, by which not only the whole of the existing liabilities of the Colony were discharged, but a balance was left available for other purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure.

Lieutenant-Governor HARLEY to the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

SIR, Government House, June 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1875, together with my report thereon.

As I did not assume the administration of the Colony until the month of September, I hope to have your Excellency's consideration where I have not reported upon transactions which did not come immediately under my own observation.

I regret this report could not be transmitted earlier, owing to the recently disturbed state of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. HARLEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
J. Pope Hennessy, C.M.G.,
Governor-in-Chief.

1. *Taxes Duties.*

There was no increased taxation during the year.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The returns under this head show a satisfactory increase over expenditure, which enabled the Colony to discharge the arrears of the previous year that amounted to 1,859*l.* 10*s.*, and leave a balance to carry over to the present year.

2. No doubt much depression had prevailed for some time, but with a steady economy and an increased revenue, owing to the abundant crop which was made, enabled the liabilities of the

Island to be discharged with punctuality, and a return to regular monthly payments was regarded with satisfaction by those having contracts with the Government, and by the officials of the Colony, who hitherto had to pay a discount of 5 per cent. upon their pay warrants, which was felt as a hardship upon small salaries.

3. The export duty of one dollar per hogshead upon sugar, which had been voluntarily imposed for purposes of immigration, was suspended this year, as the funds already collected, amounting to over 3,000*l.*, was considered sufficient.

3. *Public Works.*

4. The completion of the hospital, which had remained so long in abeyance, was proceeded with, and at the close of the year was so far advanced as to admit of one wing being occupied by the asylum patients who had hitherto been very indifferently lodged, and in accordance with a decision which had been come to, that inasmuch as the building had more accommodation than was required for hospital purposes, the available space was to be appropriated as an asylum.

5. The lighthouse also had some necessary repairs done, and new lights provided, which were much required.

6. Government House had the kitchen newly roofed, and some general repairs done which were found absolutely necessary to preserve the buildings.

7. The house itself is a very old one, having been built in 1830, and will require extensive repairs during the next year or two.

8. The other public buildings received such repairs as were necessary to save larger expenditure at a future time.

4. *Legislation.*

9. There were no Bills passed during the year except the usual Bills of Supply, and it remains to be seen how far the "Single Chamber Act" will work practically so long as it retains the 8th clause, which provides that five elected or representative members must be present out of a quorum of nine to form a house for the despatch of business.

10. The Act requires amendment in this and other respects, but upon the whole is a great improvement upon the old system, although as yet it has not produced any beneficial measures.

5. *Council and Assembly.*

11. The status of the members of Council, which had been left somewhat undecided on the change of Constitution, was settled by the Earl of Carnarvon in a manner satisfactory to all.

6. *Civil Establishments.*

12. Colonel Harley, C.B., C.M.G., appointed Lieutenant-Governor in succession to Herbert Taylor Ussher, Esq., C.M.G., removed to Labuan. No other changes of any importance have taken place.

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7. *Population.*

13. The increase is satisfactory, although an epidemic of measles and whooping-cough proved very fatal amongst children in the latter part of the year. The mortality of infants and young children, I fear, exists to an alarming extent throughout the Island, but I have submitted a Bill to the Legislative Assembly for the appointment of district medical officers, by whose supervision I hope it will be checked.

8. *Immigration.*

14. I felt it my duty to call the attention of the Legislative Assembly to this question immediately on my assuming the government, as labour was urgently needed on the Windward Estates of the Island, but from no proper system having been established immigrants could not be obtained from Barbados.

15. On the 1st October rules and regulations were passed in Council, guaranteeing certain advantages to all immigrants introduced into the Colony, including employment for 12 months, half an acre of land for cultivation of provisions, medical attendance, medicine and food while sick, and lodging at the expense of the employer.

16. To assist this an allowance of ten dollars for each adult is paid out of the fund set aside for immigration purposes to each person introducing labourers, and the whole system placed under the supervision of Government.

17. The result of these arrangements has been most satisfactory, and 200 immigrants have been introduced and located upon the estates, of whom the stipendiary magistrate of the district, who is the inspecting officer, reports:—"The accommodation provided "for them on the several estates where they are located continues "satisfactory, and no complaints have been made to me although "I see them often," and further, "With the exception of a little "fever, their health on the whole has been excellent. The "medical officer attends them regularly on stated days."

18. This would seem to contradict the impression which was said to prevail against coming to Tobago on account of its unhealthiness.

19. There was no emigration from the Island to any appreciable extent.

9. *Ecclesiastical.*

20. The Anglican Church does not appear to have suffered by its disestablishment, and by the energy of its ministers and good management of the Council, the Sustentation Fund at the end of the year showed a balance credit to carry on.

21. St. Andrew's Church, in Scarborough, and St. Mary's Church, in the Windward District, have had new roofs put on them, the former at a cost, I understand, of 1,100*l.*, which has all been paid, and the latter at a cost of 700*l.*, of which only 100*l.* remains due.

22. The Leeward District has had the services of the Rev. Mr. Knight from Trinidad as a temporary measure, until a permanent appointment can be made.

23. The Anglican Church receives a grant of 615*l.* annually under the local Act 37 Vict. cap. 13.

24. The other denominations are the Moravian, or the Church of the United Brethren, which receives a grant of 230*l.*, and the Wesleyan Mission, which receives 215*l.*, under the same Act, the division of the total sum having been settled in proportion to the numbers of each sect.

10. *Education.*

25. The education of the Island was conducted without any uniform system by the heads of the several denominations without any supervision or control of Government, or any direct responsibility. The grant in aid of schools (300*l.*) was divided equally between the three denominations, and they disposed of it without rendering any account or report to the Government in connexion with it, either as to its application or its results.

26. As such an unsatisfactory state of things could not be allowed to continue, Orders in Council were passed appointing a Board of Education, consisting of one minister and two laymen of each denomination, with an inspector, with powers to deal with all matters relating to education and the disposal of the Government grant, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and also to make rules and regulations for its internal management and a uniform system of examination for the schools to be held twice yearly.

27. By this arrangement 20 schools, embracing the children of the three denominations, with a minimum number of 40 scholars (except 2), all under Government supervision, will receive Government aid, and be worked under one system, which it is confidently hoped will produce satisfactory results.

11. *Imports and Exports.*

28. These show a considerable increase over 1874; the imports for that year being 46,435*l.*, as against 67,772*l.* in 1875, a difference of 21,337*l.* in favour of the latter.

29. The exports, showing a still larger increase, amounting to 46,628*l.* over that of 1874; the figures being for 1874, 45,387*l.*, and those for 1875, 92,015*l.*

30. Nearly the entire imports were from the United Kingdom and Barbados, the figures standing thus:—

	£
1874. From United Kingdom - -	18,086
1874. From Barbados - - -	28,087
1875. From United Kingdom - -	26,737
1875. From Barbados - - -	39,502

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31. Whereas the exports were made almost entirely to the United Kingdom, the figures are—

	£
1874 - - -	42,851
1875 - - -	90,205

32. These exports were the staple products of Tobago, and show a shipment in 1875 of the following produce, viz.:—

6,652 hogsheads of sugar,
1,002 puncheons of rum,
918 do. of molasses,
669,500 cocoanuts,

and in 1874—

2,968 hogsheads of sugar.
585 puncheons of rum.
210 do. of molasses.
394,000 cocoanuts.

33. The year 1875 may be regarded as an exceptionally favourable one, inasmuch as no such crop has been made since the days of slavery, showing that Tobago without any particular effort, except the opening of the land, can compete with its more fortunate neighbours in its staple productions in proportion to population.

12. *Shipping.*

34. This year showed an increase of 25 ships entered with a tonnage 3,729 tons over 1874, which all cleared with 8,626 tons of freight, except 2.

1874. Entered,	111	vessels,	5,279 tons.
Cleared,	110	„	5,271 „
1875. Entered,	136	„	9,008 „
Cleared,	134	„	8,626 „

13. *Agriculture.*

35. The cultivation of the land is very primitive, neither machinery nor approved modern appliances being much used. The hoe is the chief implement of husbandry by which the land is turned up and the cane holes dug in which the plant is placed, and except occasional weeding, it is left to nature and favourable weather; the plough (of English make) is also used on some estates. Manure is seldom used except that taken from the cattle pens, which is much valued, but the land is so fertile and has been so little worked that it does not require guano or mineral manure as at Barbados and elsewhere, although these manures have been imported here and used with good results.

36. A steam plough might, I think, be employed with very great advantage in the leeward part of the Island on the estates at Sandy Point, which is almost a level surface, and where cross ploughing would improve the land.

37. The Metayer system prevails to a considerable extent, but does not work satisfactorily, and the sugar made is the ordinary muscovado.

38. The negro is averse to written contracts, which are seldom made, and hence indefinite arrangements produce misunderstandings between the Metayer and the owner of the land, and are a fruitful source of litigation.

39. There is no doubt that if a central factory could be established, separating the manufacture of the sugar from the cultivation of the cane, and would purchase by contract the crop of canes that can be produced, as at St. Lucia, Trinidad, and the French Islands, and as recommended in a valuable report by Mr. Alfred Chapman, of the firm of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston, and Co., eminent engineers, of Liverpool, on the subject (a copy of which is annexed), that where an acre of land will yield an average of 30 tons of cane, which sold to the factory at 15*s.* a ton, and deducting the cost of production, which is about 8*l.*, and the rent of the land 1*l.*, leaves a profit of 13*l.* 10*s.* to the planter, would induce a very wide and general cultivation of cane amongst the small holders, which would have an important benefit on the future prosperity of Tobago, as there is a large extent of land to be brought in.

40. Unfortunately, at present I see but little hope of this, as the revenue of the Island would not at present bear any considerable outlay, nor would it be expedient to impose any increased taxation, even to pay the interest for a given time upon raised capital.

14. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

41. The building now used as a gaol was the old military hospital of former days, when troops were quartered in Tobago. It is situated on Fort King George, and answers the requirements of the Colony. There is not sufficient accommodation to admit of a classification of the prisoners, but with few exceptions they are well conducted; there are cells for the refractory, which are well ventilated and kept scrupulously clean. Shot drill on three days a week for one hour, morning and afternoon, forms part of the hard-labour punishment, with stone-breaking, and working on the public roads, and solitary confinement at stated periods almost invariably forms part of the sentences under the Court of Queen's Bench, as it is considered a deterrent. I confess I do not quite share this opinion, and as for women I consider that no solitary confinement should exceed 48 hours.

42. The prisoners are well and sufficiently fed, lodged, and clothed, a stipendiary magistrate is the visiting justice, the public medical officer is the medical attendant, and a chaplain who also acts as schoolmaster attends the gaol.

43. The gaol is in charge of the marshal, who has a resident gaoler under him, and does credit to his active supervision in the clean, healthy, and orderly manner in which it is kept.

15. *Criminal Statistics.*

44. The number of offences of all classes reported during 1873 were 1,807, but deducting 818 cases discharged for want of

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evidence, and on the merits there remains but 959; of this number, 938 were summary convictions, of which one half were offences against the "Masters and Servants Act," principally for absence from work.

45. In the superior court there were 21 cases in all, upon which 10 convictions were obtained. Upon the whole, I am able to report in the words and upon the authority of his Honour the Chief Justice in his charge to the grand jury at the last sessions, when he says, "I may fairly conclude that crime is on the decrease. "At any rate it has been so during the past twelve months," and further, "During a period of eight years there have been 85 con- "victions in this court (the Queen's Bench), not so many in a "population of 17,686 souls, and is not quite one half per cent."

46. Upon the 31st December 1875 there remained in the gaol but 33 prisoners under sentence, as compared with 45 in 1874, showing a decrease of 12 in favour of last year.

16. *Hospital and Asylum.*

47. Will be found reported on under the head of Public Buildings. There are inmates of the latter, for whose maintenance and out-door relief of poor there has been an annual grant made hitherto, but in future this provision will be included with the sum voted for the hospital, as they will be placed under one system of general management by a committee, under a recent Act passed by the Legislative Assembly.

General Remarks.

48. The short time I have been in Tobago falling within the limits of this Report will not admit of my adding much to the remarks I have already made; but I may mention that the Island may be considered prosperous, and that a succession of a few good crops will enable much to be done in many ways which is now urgently needed.

49. A qualified engineer and road surveyor is much wanted, who might also take charge of the public buildings and their repairs.

50. The Code of Civil Procedure, which has been adopted for the Leeward Islands, is recommended for Tobago.

51. The establishment of some organisation for defensive purposes is an important matter for future consideration, as the small force of police which is at present maintained is scattered over the Island and employed upon various duties under the courts, which prevents more than some half-dozen being collected promptly upon any emergency.

52. Tobago suffers in her commerce, and otherwise from the insufficient means of communication with the neighbouring Islands; there is but one service monthly by a vessel of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company calling here on her way for an hour to and from Demerara. The advantage of obtaining a bi-monthly mail would be very important.

53. Formerly one of Her Majesty's ships occasionally visited Tobago, but such an occurrence is now only made at long intervals. If it could be so arranged that one of the ships on the station would call here every few months, and remain for a few days, it would add greatly to the security of this Island, and to check any growing disaffection which may be latent.

(Signed) T. W. HARLEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Government House,
Tobago, April 1876.

Copy of REPORT of Mr. ALFRED CHAPMAN upon the Scheme of a Central Sugar Factory.

SIR, Tobago, March 8, 1876.

BEFORE leaving for England I have the honour to submit to your consideration various data about the sugar industry of this Colony, especially in reference to the establishment of a central sugar factory in the neighbourhood of Scarborough, my deductions therefrom, and also my opinion on several points that may be of service to you hereafter.

I find that the planters and merchants with whom I have conversed, and notably Mr. Keens and Mr. McCall, agree in considering that with the present practice of agriculture and mode of manufacturing sugar in the district referred to—

1. That an acre of ground will yield 30 tons of cane; that it is not profitable in said district to allow the canes to ratoon more than one year, although they will ratoon for two or three years.

2. That the cost of cultivating an acre of ground, and cutting and loading the cane therefrom, is one year, with another 8*l.*; and that the rent per acre paid by small farmers to the land proprietor is 1*l.* per annum.

3. That the average amount of juice extracted by the mills existing in the district does not exceed 50 per cent. of the weight of cane crushed.

4. That 2,000 gallons of juice will give 16½ cwt. of muscovado sugar as now made, delivered nett in London, the loss between shipping and landing weights being 16 per cent.; sometimes this same amount is obtained from 1,400 gallons of juice, but this result is, I understand, from estates to windward.

5. That the average quantity of rum obtained is one puncheon of 100 gallons to three hogsheads of sugar of 16½ cwt.

6. That the best shipping port is Scarborough.

7. That the most fertile source of fresh water in the district is a spring on the Burleigh Castle Estate.

8. That the habits and customs of the native labouring population will prevent a central factory being worked at least for the first and probably the second crop for more than 12 hours a day, commencing at 6 a.m., until a gang shall be organised and educated who can be trusted to work at night, and so double the

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producing power of the factory. I am also informed that practically only half a day's work can be obtained on Saturdays.

9. That although the reaping season extends over four and a half to five months, yet, deducting Sundays and the half Saturdays, it will not be prudent to count upon more than 100 days for crushing canes.

10. That if a central factory company be established, the first thing to do would be to send out one or two of Fowler's steam ploughs, to be hired out to such cultivators as may desire to use them.

11. That the factory should be capable of making 2,000 tons of crystallised dry sugar per crop, with corresponding quantity of rum.

12. That the whole of the district, with the exception of the immediate neighbourhood of a small swamp in the plantation Auchenskeoch, is healthy and free from miasmatic or malarial influences; this is confirmed by Dr. Buhot.

13. That during the crop season the weather is sufficiently dry to allow of the megass being sunned before going to the furnaces.

14. That although there is a spring on Auchenskeoch Estate, it is not so fertile as the one on the plantation Burleigh Castle, and that the water of both of these as well as of the other small springs in the district is highly impregnated with lime.

From the foregoing I deduce—

1st. That although the land yields about the same weight of cane per acre as in Demerara, its richness in saccharine is superior; because I find that notwithstanding the imperfect method of manufacture, involving great losses by leakage of juice on the copper wall, burning of syrup on the copper wall and drainage at sea, that the nett weight of sugar delivered in London is equal at 2,000 gallons per hogshead to 0·924 pounds of sugar per gallon of juice, and at 1,400 gallons per hogshead to 1·32 pounds of sugar per gallon of juice.

2nd. That an acre of ground properly cultivated, and yielding 30 tons of cane at 15*s.* per ton, would give 22*l.* 10*s.*, or a profit of 13*l.* 10*s.* to the tenant; but if through improper cultivation or drought or other cause only 20 tons were reaped, these sold at 15*s.* would yield 15*l.*, from which, deducting 8*l.* for cultivation and 1*l.* for rent, would still leave a profit to the tenant of 6*l.* per acre.

3rd. That with powerful grinding machinery as now constructed, and the adoption of the maceration process introduced and perfected by the Honourable William Russell, of Demerara, from 75 to 80 per cent. of juice would be extracted, instead of the 50 per cent. now obtained from the canes.

That if by a more perfect system of manufacturing only an equal weight of sugar per gallon were obtained, but that sugar were in a dry crystallised form, from which there would be no drainage, this source of loss, amounting to 16 per cent. or 320 tons of sugar in a crop of 2,000 tons, would be avoided.

That by a more perfect system of distilling, treating a better material, 125 gallons of 40 O.P. rum would be obtained instead of the 100 gallons now produced.

That as Scarborough offers the greatest facilities for shipping the produce and landing the stores, &c., it must also be the best port for landing the large quantity of machinery and material required for the erection of a large factory, many of the pieces being of great weight and size.

That inasmuch as a good supply of fresh water for boilers and distillery is essential to the welfare of a large factory, the site should be chosen with a view of having easy access to the spring on the Burleigh Castle Estate, the full use and control of which should be secured to the company.

That in designing the machinery for the factory, it should be borne in mind that the daily task is to be performed in 10 hours as regards the cane crushing, and 12 hours as regards the other operations of the factory.

That in case the railways laid down by the central factory run into a country where a steam plough can be used, it would certainly be advantageous to import one or two. I shall refer to this point again. That if the power of production of the factory be equal to 20 tons of sugar in 12 hours, it is equal to 40 tons of sugar in 24 hours; it would, therefore, be larger than the Usine of the Madelaine in Trinidad, much larger than any estate at present existing in Demerara, and inferior to none in Cuba.

That any spot chosen for the site of the factory on the Burleigh Castle Estate would be good in a sanitary point of view, some of the ridges indeed offer special advantages for drainage.

That megass may be sunned before being burnt, thus effecting a great economy in fuel, and avoiding the dangerous and expensive logis system of Demerara, or the equally expensive system adopted in Martinique of burning green megass by use of coal.

In endeavouring to form a company to establish a central factory for the economical manufacture of good sugar, it is necessary to bear in mind that the secret of success that has hitherto attended these undertakings has been the absolute and complete division of labour between the agriculturist or farmer who cultivates the cane, and is indeed a "planter" as well as in name, and the owner of the central factory, who, receiving that cane on his barge or railway, takes it to his factory and converts it into sugar, molasses, or rum, and is in deed and name a manufacturer.

By this system each party is enabled to devote the whole of his energy and ability to attaining perfection in his own pursuit, and thus realises greater profits than if his attention were constantly distracted by conflicting interests.

A man to efficiently manage a plantation, making 2,000 tons of crystallised sugar per crop, must not only be an able administrator by nature, but must also be a first-rate agriculturist, chemist, engineer, and merchant by education; such men are rare, and the welfare of a company should not depend upon its being able to

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find such a combination of talent and energy. A central factory, however, should be possessed of sufficient ground round about it to ensure its privacy, say a plot of 40 to 50 acres, in the midst of which the buildings for the sugar factory proper and the houses and accommodation for the manager, mechanics, and certain portion of the labourers would be erected.

If in addition to this it owned 150 to 200 acres of ground, which it could portion off among the labourers, so as to keep them together during the "dead" or off season, it would be advantageous.

A shop also should be established on the property, and let to a respectable dealer at a nominal rent, but under the most stringent stipulations as to its good conduct and scale of charges, which in no case should exceed the prices current of Scarborough; this will have the effect of keeping the people together, and prevent them going to town for shopping purposes and staying there for drinking. No rum or spirits of any description should be allowed to be sold within a radius of a mile from the factory.

By treating the cane in the most approved manner, one ton of sugar can be obtained from 13 tons of cane, or say eight per cent.; this with cane in its normal condition, as the season advances and the canes become richer, the yield is so much greater.

We have, therefore, to count upon cutting and bringing to the mill 260 tons of cane to make 20 tons of sugar, and allowing 30 tons of cane per acre, it will be necessary to cut from 8·66 acres to 10 acres per diem, say for a crop of 100 days 1,000 acres of cane must be cut, and allowing an equal quantity of land to be under various stages of clearing and cultivation, so as to ensure a proper amount of cane for the ensuing crop, it is clear that there should be at least 2,000 acres of ground that may be depended upon to be brought into successful cultivation within 12 months after the factory has commenced making sugar; also there should be capabilities of doubling this area within three years after the first sugars are made, so that when the factory can be worked night and day, the cane supply should be capable of being doubled.

The only economical and efficient means of bringing such large quantities of cane with regularity to the mill is either by water or by railway; in the district of which I write the latter method is the only one available.

Without having a section of the country, it is impossible to arrive with any degree of accuracy at the cost of constructing suitable and convenient railways, but I may state that from the plantation Auchenskeoch, westward to Sandy Point, the land is almost level, and offers but little difficulty to the construction of a railway, but between Auchenskeoch and Burleigh Castle there is some very difficult ground to be got over, involving very heavy cuttings, and the construction of about one mile and a half of railway that would merely serve as a connecting link between the

estates to westward of Burleigh Castle and factory, without passing through country that could supply it with cane.

If sufficient fresh water were obtainable in the neighbourhood of Shirvan or Golden Grove, then the factory could be established on either of these estates with the greatest advantage, and its railways branching throughout the plain would not require to pass Auchenskeoch to serve a district sufficiently large for the factory requirements.

On the other hand, if Burleigh Castle be decided upon for the site of the factory, on account of its proximity to Scarborough and the fertility of its spring, I consider that railroads can be economically constructed on the sites of various hills, which shall run into the gullies, and so serve the estates of Burleigh Castle, Spring Garden, Montpelier, and, coming to the town of Scarborough itself, receive canes from small planters in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, say within a radius of a mile.

Before deciding on the respective merits of the above schemes, or of the advantages offered by a combination of both, which decision can only be arrived at after a proper survey of the country has been made, and sections of the different lines of railway obtained, it is necessary to make provisional contracts with planters, by which they undertake that in case a company be formed for the establishment of a central factory, they will undertake to cultivate a minimum number of acres, and supply the factory with the canes therefrom for a given number of years, say 10, at a fixed rate, say 15*s.* per ton, also that they will *cede* to the factory such land as the company may require for the construction of their railways, which land must become the absolute property of the company, and no right of way to remain with the proprietors over the company's railroad: for nothing is more destructive to railroads than the passage of beasts of burden over them, especially in the wet seasons. If the Colony will offer five per cent. interest on the paid-up capital for the two years required for the construction of the work, and merchants and planters here will subscribe 10,000*l.* additional for shares, I doubt not that the rest of the capital could be found in England; but you must have at least a capital of 100,000*l.* if you are to carry out the scheme properly, for not only will you have to pay for the construction of the works, but you will also have to be prepared to make such advances to planters from time to time to enable them to carry on their cultivation as the quantity of land they have under cultivation will warrant.

In the case the factory be erected at Burleigh Castle, and its railways laid only to the estates and lands to the eastward, no steam ploughs would be required, as they could not be used on this part of the district.

I regret extremely that time does not permit my going more fully into these matters, but I shall always be most happy to give you any advice or information that I can; my present intention is

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to return direct to England, in case, however, I go by Habana, and my arrival in England is delayed, any questions you may address to my firm will meet with due attention.

I shall make it my business, as soon as possible, to carefully draw up a specification of the necessary works apart from the railways, and submit to you a precise estimate of their cost.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank you for the courtesy and kindness with which you have treated me during my visit to this Colony, and have the honour to subscribe myself.

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

ALFRED CHAPMAN.

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,
Lieutenant-Governor, Tobago.

St. Lucia.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 9.

SIR, Government Office, Castries, August 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward a Report upon the condition and prospects of this Colony, to accompany the Blue Book for 1875.

2. The Blue Book itself has been completed, and will, I trust, be forwarded next mail by the officer who may be appointed to act during my absence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. WM. DES VŒUX,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency J. P. Hennessy, Esq. C.M.G.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT (to accompany the Blue Book for 1875) on the CONDITION and PROSPECTS of ST. LUCIA.

1875 was a not uneventful year for this Island, and it will be seen from the statistics given below that, if the material prosperity of a Colony be measured by the quantity and value of its products, and by the amount of its trade and revenue, the year in question was, on the whole, the most prosperous one which St. Lucia has ever known, though the last six years, on the average, have in these particulars surpassed all former years.

Exported Produce.

Sugar continues to be by far the most important product of the Colony, inasmuch as the value of that exported during 1875 was four times the value of all other products, though, relatively to the amount exported, it was probably lower than ever before, owing to the depressed condition of the markets of the world.

The following table shows the amount exported in the last six years :—

1870	-	-	-	12,865,103 lbs.
1871	-	-	-	12,918,960 „
1872	-	-	-	13,510,850 „
1873	-	-	-	12,076,500 „
1874	-	-	-	13,374,060 „
1875	-	-	-	14,832,900 „

The production of 1875 thus exceeded the largest production of any of these years, that of 1875, by 1,322,000 lbs., or over 9 per cent., while, as was shown in my report for 1873, the lowest amount produced in any of these years considerably exceeded that of any of the former years (extending back to 1829) of which we have recorded statistics.

From the figures given in that report and those above stated, it may be deduced that the average annual production of the six years ending 1875 was 13,263,062 lbs., of the six years ending 1869, 9,815,807 lbs., and of the six years ending 1863, 8,392,335 lbs. So that the sugar crop of the last six years shows an increase by comparison with that of the previous six years of 35 per cent., and with that of the series ending 1863 of 58 per cent.

The increase in the second series of years was chiefly owing to the presence in the Island of a considerable number of imported coolies, whose labour became more valuable towards the end of their terms of service. The much larger increase in the last series of years, when four-fifths of the coolies had left the Island is, therefore, due to other causes, some of which will be made to appear in this report.

But, though these causes are still in existence, there is reason to fear that they may be more than neutralized by an evil which appears to be growing and threatens to become a serious calamity, I allude to the depressed condition of the sugar market.

Having necessarily learnt much with respect to the cost of cultivation and manufacture by my connexion with the central faction lately established under Government auspices, I feel convinced that during the last two years very few planters indeed have done more than "make ends meet," and that the majority have been working at a loss. Fortunately the weather was favourable to the crop of 1875; but, nevertheless, the number of planters in difficulties was exceptionally large, and will, I fear, be larger still this year.

Owing to several exceptional causes, there is, indeed, a probability of improved prices in the immediate future, which may bring some temporary relief. But the circumstances tending to

St. Lucia.

produce depression, which at the same time afford their special compensations to almost all other producers than the British, appear to be more permanent, and there is, I fear, too much reason to apprehend that the St. Lucia planter, in common with those of all the British West Indian Colonies, cannot much longer maintain a competition in which he is becoming every day more heavily weighted.

But whatever may be the prospects of the future, it is evident that the existing state of things above described, which, I fear, must be more or less closely parallelled in all the British West Indies, is deserving of the most serious attention. For, if continued, it means nothing less than financial ruin to all these Colonies.

A measure has been suggested which would unquestionably avert this threatened calamity, but owing to obvious reasons, it has not, perhaps, received the consideration which it appears to deserve, and I shall therefore venture to say a few words upon it at the end of this report.

Besides sugar, the only exports of any importance were cacao and logwood.

The following tables show the amount and value of the exports of each during the last six years :—

Cacao.

Year.	lbs.	Value.
1870	257,543	£4,294
1871	196,696	3,276
1872	246,811	4,022
1873	280,473	4,674
1874	255,614	4,260
1875	277,172	4,619

Logwood.

Year.	Tons.	Value.
1870	167	£368
1871	128	320
1872	298	745
1873	256	640
1874	306	918
1875	1,587	6,348

The production of cacao is, I believe, slightly increasing, altogether by peasant proprietors. The increase in 1875, however, was due, I think, rather to a favourable season than to any other cause.

The export of logwood received a strong impetus in the abolition of the export duty upon it during the year.

Trade.

The total value of exports was 158,886*l.* as against 146,858*l.* in 1874, and 151,011*l.* in 1873, 184,622*l.* in 1872, 171,461*l.* in 1871, and 147,172*l.* in 1870.

Though the amount of exported produce was about 10 per cent. greater in 1875 than in any one of the preceding years, the value was greater in 1872 and 1871, owing to the higher prices of sugar which followed the Franco-German War.

The total value of exports during the six years ending 1875 was 960,010*l.*, giving an annual average of 160,001*l.*, and during the six years ending 1869, 661,010*l.*; the average being 110,258*l.* The increase during the latter series has thus been nearly 50 per cent., while the earlier series showed an advance of 12 per cent. when compared with the series of six years immediately preceding.

I should mention that the official return of exported sugar though, I doubt not, most carefully prepared by the Treasurer, according to the method which custom has established here, is merely valuable for the sake of comparison between different years. But for the purpose of comparison with the returns of other Colonies, it altogether fails to do justice to St. Lucia. For the weight of each package is estimated from its dimension, according to the scale contained in an export duty Ordinance (now repealed) which, in every instance, fixes the weight much below the actual weight. Thus the weight of the 40-inch hogshead, which (filled with the dark heavy sugar of the Colony) actually averages about a ton, is fixed by the scale at only 1,500 lbs. That of the 38-inch hogshead is fixed at 1,300 lbs., though it actually weighs 1,960 lbs. The difference in the last case being over 50 per cent., and in the first 48 per cent. The difference is not quite so great in the case of the smaller packages, but I am certainly within the mark in putting the average difference at 45 per cent., so that the real average of sugar exported in the last six years is not 13,263,062, but 19,231,439 lbs.

I have been particular on this point with a view to institute a comparison with the neighbouring Colony of Barbados, the inhabitants of which, in support of their opposition to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, have unwittingly depreciated the resources and ignored the progress of the neighbouring more sparsely populated Colonies.

The average annual crop of Barbados during the last six years was 46,997 hogsheads. Estimating the Barbados hogshead as weighing on the average 2,000 lbs., the average weight of sugar exported was 93,994,000 lbs.

The population of Barbados has lately been officially estimated at 180,000, and our purpose would be better served by accepting these figures, but I have reason for considering them as too large, and I therefore put them at 176,000. The population of St. Lucia was in 1871, 32,000, and is now estimated from the registration returns to be about 34,000. So that while the population of the one Island is to that of the other as 5·01 to 1, the quantities of sugar exported by them respectively are only as 4·88 to 1, and while the St. Lucia export is 565 lbs., that of Barbados is only 534 lbs. per head of population.

So it thus appears that St. Lucia actually exports more sugar per head of population than Barbados.

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Barbados sugar certainly obtains a higher price to the extent of about 1*s.* per cwt., this being due to the drier character of its soil, rather than to any improvement of manufacture.

But the difference is (for the purpose of this comparison) more than compensated by the value of cacao and logwood, &c. exported from St. Lucia, Barbados having practically no other products than those of the sugar cane.

For though, according to the returns, the average value of Barbados exports is to the average value of St. Lucia exports as 6·82 to 1, the St. Lucia returns show an amount less than the real amount by at least one-third, for the reasons above given with reference to the returns of weight. Making allowance for this, the comparison would stand at 5·12 to 1, the very slight difference in favour of Barbados being much more than accounted for by the proportionately larger export from Barbados of goods that have been previously imported.

Considering, together with the above figures, that Barbados has probably reached almost the extreme limit of its productive capacity, while St. Lucia, with an area, larger by nearly half, a soil of unsurpassed fertility, and a population increasing naturally, (as shown below) at the rate of about 1·8* per cent. per annum. Considering further, that the recent progress of St. Lucia in respect of the amount of its trade, produce, and revenue has been relatively far greater than that of Barbados, that the whole debt of St. Lucia, 45,000*l.*, is balanced by the available assets (sinking fund 12,000*l.*, balance in the treasury 8,000*l.*, and the central factory shares 25,000*l*), and that even if the central sugar factory were, contrary to the general expectation, to prove a complete failure, the total loss could not possibly be more than four fifths of the income of one year, and is far exceeded in amount by the value of land which belongs to the Crown.

Considering all these facts, I trust that I am not without justi fication for the opinion that the financial position of St. Lucia is fully equal to that of Barbados, and that even if the proposed confederation should include an amalgamation of the treasuries of the two Islands, Barbados would not be that which would suffer financial loss, even at the present moment, while it would probably reap a yearly increasing advantage from the measure, altogether apart from savings upon the official staff, and the expenditure at the Central Government of the funds of the other Colonies.

For the above reasons, it would seem that any objection to the confederation of the two Islands on merely financial grounds might be urged with more reason on behalf of St. Lucia than of Barbados.

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* This is a very high rate of natural increase; 2 per cent., the estimated rate for Barbados, is a most improbable rate for so dense a population, even during a short and exceptional period.

If there were no natural law under which population is checked by its density, the population of St. Lucia, increasing at 2 per cent., would, in 500 years, equal that of the United Kingdom, and in 800 years would more than equal the present population of the world.

The value of imports in 1875 was 150,740*l.*, a sum exceeding that of any year on record except 1872, when, owing probably to the high prices obtained for exports, the figures were 151,194*l.* The value in 1874 was 133,006*l.*

The total value of imports in the last six years was 778,646*l.*, the average annual value being thus 134,774*l.* As in the case of exports, the figures show an advance of about 50 per cent. as compared with the six years ending 1869, which give a total of 492,575*l.*, and an annual average of 82,095*l.*

Of the total value of exports in 1875, viz., 158,886*l.*, the sum of 141,944*l.*, was the value of articles sent to the United Kingdom; of the 150,740*l.*, the total value of the imports, 75,100*l.* is the value of imports from the United Kingdom, and a large portion of the remaining imports, though coming directly from Barbados, were in fact also British goods. So that considerably more than two thirds of the trade of the Island is with the mother country. With regard to this fact, it is worthy of note that St. Lucia, in common with the neighbouring French Island of Martinique, has a white and coloured population, mainly descended from the French settlers and their slaves, and speaking French or French-Creole patois, and the common origin and sympathies of the people of the two Islands, have given rise to much more intercourse and inter-marriage than has ever taken place between the people of St. Lucia and the people of the neighbouring English Island of St Vincent.

Yet I am informed that the commerce of Martinique is carried on even more exclusively with France than that of St. Lucia with England; and we have thus an illustration on a small scale of the manner in which "trade follows the flag."

As St. Lucia has not, for 12 years, cost anything to England, either for its protection or its civil * establishment, it is evident that the value of even a small Colony to the mother country is something more than sentimental.

Taxation.

In July 1875 a considerable change was made in the taxation of the Colony. All export duties (which had been previously levied upon sugar, rum, molasses, cacao, cordwood, and logwood) were abolished, and the import duties were increased—the ad valorem duties from 6½ to 10 per cent., and the specific duties in varying proportions.

The principal reasons for this change were as follows:—

(1.) That the export duties upon the products of the sugar cane having been levied for the purpose of repaying a loan raised for the importation of coolies, were obtained in a great measure (latterly exceeding half) from peasant proprietors and others who had received no benefit from the coolies.

* 100*l.* per annum is still paid from Imperial funds to one of the clergy; but the payment will cease with the tenure of the present incumbent.

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(2.) That even those who had directly benefited by the services of the coolies had already paid a share of the cost of their importation, larger than has been deemed equitable in respect of all other Colonies.

(3.) That if it were, under any circumstances, expedient to tax specially the producers of the staple upon which the prosperity of the Colony entirely depends, it would be better to place a tax upon the land as affording the stronger inducement to produce as much as possible.

(4.) That the excise duties could not be increased without rendering certain a large increase of smuggling, for which the sparse population and the near neighbourhood of Martinique gives peculiar facilities.

(5.) That a sufficient revenue from direct taxation, other than that already existing, would be too difficult and costly in collection in a country where the population is so scattered, and would require an additional expenditure for police.

(6.) That import duties which elsewhere bear with undue hardship on the poorer consumers, are much less open to this objection here, where life can be easily supported without any imported food, and where clothing is a luxury rather than a necessity.

(7.) That even if this were otherwise, it is equitable that the labourer (who in proportion to his wants is probably as well off as any in the world) should contribute a large share to the revenue of the Government, inasmuch as he derives the chief benefit from the expenditure in the free medical attendance and free hospitals provided for him, in having justice (no longer, I am happy to say, a mere name) brought almost to his doors, and in a form of government specially designed for his protection; and

(8.) That, inasmuch as the labouring class of St. Lucia are equally well off with that of Jamaica, and the conditions of the two Islands are in all essential respects so alike that one may be looked upon as a miniature of the other, it is unreasonable to suppose that St. Lucia would be injured by a tariff which, though high, is in no respect so high as that under which Jamaica has made the remarkable progress of the last eight years.

Finance.

The revenue of 1875, from all sources, amounted to 31,258*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* The general revenue, inclusive of special funds now merged in it, having been - - - -	£ 28,820	*s.* 18	*d.* 11
And that of the remaining special funds -	2,437	18	7
	£31,258	17	6

The general revenue was derived from the following sources:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs (inclusive of half year's export) duties - - - -	15,887	12	11
Licenses - - - -	1,724	18	10
Excise - - - -	7,206	12	5
Road tax - - - -	1,535	11	8
Fines and fees - - -	1,789	1	2
Minor items - - - -	677	1	11
	£28,820	18	11

The revenue of 1874 (inclusive of that of the special funds now merged in general revenue) was 26,708*l.*, and inclusive of all funds, 28,759*l.*

The average total revenue of the five years ending 1874 was 25,430*l.*, and that of the six years ending 1869 was 18,683*l.*, and that of any previous series of six years was still lower. It thus appears that the amount of revenue, like that of trade of the Colony, after having progressed steadily up to 1869, has in the last six years made a remarkable advance.

The great increase in 1875 (as compared with 1874) was in a measure owing to the changes above mentioned, which took place in the middle of the year. But making due deduction on this account, the revenue of 1875 was both actually and relatively to the amount of taxation the largest ever raised in the Island.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure amounted to 31,798*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, thus exceeding the revenue by 539*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* But the excess is considerably on the side of revenue, when deduction is made from expenditure of the 1,400*l.*, or thereabouts, which was paid for the completion of the new hospital and lunatic asylum, a sum which was intended to be taken from the surplus balances of former years.

The expenditure of 1874 (inclusive of that of all special funds) was 33,326*l.*, the excess over revenue being also due to exceptional votes from the balances.

Surplus Balances.

The balance of the revenue of former years at the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1875 was 8,137*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, or about one quarter's expenditure.

In 1873 the sum of 2,000*l.* was borrowed from these balances by the town of Castries, the loan being repayable by annual instalments of 200*l.* and interest.

Loans.

The sinking fund of the imperial loan for 15,000*l.* now amounts to over 12,000*l.*

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The central factory loan of 30,000*l.* authorised in 1874 was issued in that year and in 1875, and in the latter year was remitted the first payment of 2,100*l.* on account of interest and sinking fund.

The Colony holds 25,000*l.* fully paid up 10*l.* shares of the St. Lucia Central Factory Company, Limited, which were purchased with part of the proceeds of the loan.

The amount to be paid on account of principal and interest for this loan will never be larger than in 1875, while it may be hoped that in future years there will be an income from the shares to set against the expenditure on this account.

The Colony has no other debt.

Works and Buildings.

In 1875 were completed the new general hospital at Castries, and the auxiliary hospitals at Soufrière and Vieuxfort.

The Castries hospital is adapted for the reception of over 100 patients, allowing considerably over 1,200 cubic feet for each patient. It is surrounded on the two windward sides by broad covered galleries, and it stands on a spot situated about 60 feet above the sea. It receives, moreover, the full benefit of the trade wind, which reaches it undisturbed by any higher ground within a mile, and it commands a magnificent view of sea and land, which is rendered cheerful for the patients by movements of vessels and boats in the harbour. When the hospital has its proper complement of outbuildings, which as yet are for the most part only of a temporary nature, the institution will be in every way a credit to the Island.

A new asylum was also provided for the lunatics of the Island in a building which, though not in all respects as might be desired, is far more spacious and commodious than the old one. It may be hoped that there will soon be brought about the long contemplated co-operation between the Islands for the construction of a common lunatic asylum, on a scale which will permit of the provision of all modern improvements.

Education.

Education remains in much the same condition as was very fully described in my report for 1870.

The number of pupils on the rolls of the Mico schools has indeed increased from 1,313 to 1,742, but the average attendance has fallen from 62 to 51 per cent.

There are returns from only two of the Catholic schools. But supposing that their numbers have increased proportionately to the increase of population, the aggregate number of pupils in all the schools (Mico and Catholic) would be under 3,000. The number receiving such education as is obtainable cannot, therefore, be higher than 2,000, or about one third of the children in the Island between the ages of five and sixteen.

The public funds at the disposal of the Mico schools being

largely supplemented by the grant of a private charity, the teachers are generally believed to have on the whole higher qualifications for their task than those of the Catholic schools, which have no private endowment. But inasmuch as the Mico schools still keep up the faulty system of teaching in a language which is not the mother tongue of the people, I question whether the practical results of education are in any great degree more satisfactory in the one class of schools than in the other.

Many of the pupils of both schools acquire a smattering of the "three R's," such as to place them in their opinion above their still more illiterate countrymen, and to cause them to despise agricultural labour. But of these, very few indeed are properly qualified for the occupation of a mercantile or even of a copying clerk, and even those few are too many for the demand.

It may be thought that, though not apparently satisfactory in its other results, the "education" received nevertheless promotes happiness in supplying the means of mental culture and intellectual enjoyment. On this point some knowledge may be gathered from the importation of books and papers, which, I should mention, are duty free.

In 1875 the value of all the books and papers (exclusive of newspapers) imported was 25*l.*; in 1874, 69*l.*; in 1873, 132*l.*; in 1872, 266*l.*; the yearly average being thus 123*l.*

This amount would seem hardly more than sufficient to supply the printed forms used by the bank and mercantile houses, and the loss of school books and books used in the church services, which are destroyed by the climate insects and ordinary wear and tear.

The number of subscribers to the two libraries is 67, of which number 27 only were educated in the Island.

It would thus seem that, except on the part of a very small minority, there is practically no reading at all.

As I have arrived at a similar conclusion from social intercourse and conversation, I fear it is not far from the truth.

Of the moral results of the education received, I regret that I can give no better account.

Many Protestants would expect that the reading of the Bible, which has taken place daily within the Mico schools since their institution 38 years ago, would by this time have had some sensible moral effect upon the community; and Catholics would be at least equally hopeful that the religious education of their schools, which have now been established over 15 years, would have had a similar result. But if there be any such effect, I am unable to see it, and in any case, it must be very small indeed.

The standard of honesty could hardly be lower than it is throughout the community; the principle of duty, as apart from the promptings of fear, interest, and affection, appears to me scarcely to exist; gross superstition is rife not by any means among the "uneducated" alone; and though there has been a somewhat larger proportion of marriages of late years, the improvement has been quite as much among the wholly ignorant as

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among the "educated," and may be, for the most part, traced to the special activity of certain of the Catholic clergy.

Holding these views with respect to the condition of the people in respect of education, I need hardly say, that it has been and is a subject of the deepest regret that I have been able to attempt no measures for its amelioration.

It will be seen, from the review of the work of the last six years given below, that with regard to almost every other object of public expenditure, measures have been taken with a view to improvement, and, judging by the results obtained, not without success.

My reasons for the exception in the case of education were given in my report for 1870, and the opinions on the subject there expressed have been strengthened by longer experience.

I hold that no sensible improvement can be made with regard to education without a radical change of the whole system; and that such a change, to be effective, would invole a cost too great to be borne by a single small Island, and would therefore require the co-operation of some of the neighbouring communities in a similar condition.

Even though education should not (as I think it should) be compulsory, any great enlargement of the sphere of its influence would, under any circumstances, be so costly as to require the most economical distribution of the schools, and would not permit of the support of two schools in small places. So that, in spite of the advantages which belong to the denominational system, it is, in my opinion, quite beyond the means of a community like this, which can barely afford sufficient support to a single school in every place requiring one.

Not only for the sake of the selection of the schools to be supported, but for keeping the selected schools up to a proper standard by a system of payment according to results, there would be required an inspector at a salary which would absorb nearly half the present vote for education if he were supported by this Island alone.

There would also be required a school for the education of teachers and a secondary school, not only for those whose parents could afford to keep them at a school away from home, but for the more promising pupils of the primary schools supported by scholarships instituted for the purpose.

Each and all of these requisites might be attained by several Islands in combination without any serious addition to the votes for education, but would be quite beyond the means of any one of them singly; and, until such a combination is effected, I fear that the present state of things must continue.

I am by no means as sanguine as are many enthusiasts with regard to the results which are obtainable by general education in the West Indies; but I am convinced of this, that free public education, if given at all, should be placed within the reach of all children, except in the most sparsely populated localities, and that

the present educational system (if it can be so called), from which only a very trifling per-centage of the population derives any benefit, does almost as much harm as good.

Legislation.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed during 1875, of which the more important are the following:

No. 1. "To amend and consolidate the law relating to police "and other constables."

The principal changes introduced by this law were intended to make the position of a police constable sufficiently desirable to be worth an effort to retain it.

Previously the pay was little above that of the ordinary agricultural labourer, and there was no hope of pension or any other inducement to good service. On this account it was found impossible to maintain efficient discipline, resignation commonly following punishment; and the condition of the force was continually becoming more unsatisfactory, with the advance of wages obtainable in other positions.

No. 4. "To legalise assurance of life."

Up to the date of this Ordinance the old French law was in force, under which the assurance of life was illegal.

No. 5. "For the regulation of trade and import duties."

Under this was imposed the new tariff mentioned above, and improved means were provided for the collection of duties.

No. 8. Under this law the export duties were abolished, and other financial changes were made, as alluded to above under the head Finance.

No. 12. "A law for assimilating the criminal law and pro-"cedure in certain cases to the law of England" sufficiently explains itself.

Vital Statistics.

It will be seen from the annexed report of the Registrar of Births and Deaths that in 1875 the number of births was 1,519, and of deaths 928, the natural increase of population being thus 591, or at the rate of 1·75 per cent. upon the estimated population of 1874, viz., 33,630. The death and birth rates (exclusive of 91 still births) were respectively 24·9 per thousand and 42·5 per thousand.

Government Office, 18th July 1876.

THE following report of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths is published for general information.

G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX,
Administrator of the Government.

St. Lucia.

General Register Office,
Castries, 12th July 1876.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the annexed abstracts of births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, and burials for the year 1875.

The number of births registered was 1,519, and of deaths 928, the natural increase of the population for the year being 591.

The population, on the 31st December 1875, was 34,221 souls.

The male births numbered 755, the female births 764. Of these births 561 were legitimate, and 958 illegitimate.

The birth rate, exclusive of still-births, was 4·25 per cent. of the population.

The still-births numbered 91, being at the rate of 1 to 369 of the population, or 1 in 17 of the total births. There were returned 61 illegitimate still-births to 30 legitimate.

The number of deaths entered on the registers for 1875 was 928. The death rate, exclusive of still-births, was 2·49 per cent. of the population, an improvement on the two preceding years. The death rate—

Of children under one year was -	·53
From 1 to 15 years - - -	·65
Adults - - - -	1·31
	2·49

The deaths from serpents' bites numbered 11, one of the victims being a child two and a half years of age. The following statement shows the deaths from this cause since the commencement of registration :—

Year.	No. of deaths.
1869 - - -	22
1870 - - -	16
1871 - - -	9
1872 - - -	6
1873 - - -	11
1874 - - -	10
1875 - - -	11

The number of baptisms registered by the Catholic clergy was - - - - - 1,270

And by the Protestant clergy - 71

Total - - 1,341

The number of marriages solemnized was 205. The Catholic registers give 200, and the Protestant registers 5. The marriage rate of 1875 was in the proportion of 6·09 to every thousand of the population.

Nine hundred and forty-four burials were returned against 928 deaths, the former exceeding the latter by 16. The difference is small when compared with former years, and would seem to point to a more general observance of the requirements of the law.

The Catholic clergy buried 429, the Protestants 45, and laymen 470.

I have, &c.

ALEX. CLAVIER,

Registrar-General.

His Honour G. William Des Vœux,
Administrator of the Government.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of BIRTHS, DEATHS, BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, and BURIALS.

Districts.	Births.					Deaths.							Asiatics included in the foregoing head.		Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.	Under 1 year.		From 1 to 15 years.		Adults.		Total.	Births.	Deaths.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.						
1. Castries -	56	80	83	100	319	34	35	27	19	103	91	314	—	4	316	41	328
2. Anse la Raye	13	14	31	28	86	6	7	11	6	18	7	55	1	—	61	4	54
3. Soufrière -	47	43	103	111	304	24	16	29	28	41	38	176	1	5	293	34	219
4. Choiseul -	43	47	47	50	187	11	12	14	10	5	18	70	3	2	179	10	52
5. Laborie -	29	27	60	49	165	18	7	11	2	13	12	63	—	1	127	17	45
6. Vieuxfort -	24	25	45	37	131	17	12	5	2	13	12	61	3	1	106	46	59
7. Mico and Praslin.	22	12	33	30	97	7	6	4	9	6	9	41	2	1	63	17	32
8. Dennery -	17	13	24	25	79	7	15	9	6	14	10	61	—	—	70	5	51
9. Dauphin and Gros-Ilet.	23	26	55	47	151	19	16	15	11	17	9	87	—	—	126	31	104
	274	287	481	477		143	126	125	93	235	206						
	561		958		1519	269		218		441		928	10	14	1,341	205	944

PROPORTION of LEGITIMATE to ILLEGITIMATE STILL-BIRTHS.

Districts.	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.			Total.	
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
1. Castries - -	2	3	5	10	6	16	12	9
2. Anse la Raye - -	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
3. Soufrière - -	4	1	5	5	3	8	9	4
4. Choiseul - -	3	2	5	2	2	4	5	4
5. Laborie - -	4	2	6	6	1	7	10	3
6. Vieuxfort - -	1	2	3	6	4	10	7	6
7. Mico and Praslin -	1	1	2	1	—	1	2	1
8. Dennery - -	—	—	—	2	5	7	2	5
9. Dauphin and Gros-Islet	2	1	3	5	3	8	7	4
	17	13	30	37	24	61	54	37
							91	

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TABLE of MORTALITY.

Districts.	Deaths under 1 year.		From 1 to 5 years.		From 5 to 10 years.		From 10 to 15 years.		From 15 to 20 years.		From 20 to 30 years.		From 30 to 40 years.		From 40 to 50 years.		From 50 to 60 years.		From 60 to 70 years and upwards.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Castries - -	34	35	16	10	7	5	4	4	7	6	16	10	22	14	12	10	16	13	35	38	314
2. Anse la Raye -	6	7	9	5	1	1	1	-	1	-	4	1	3	1	3	2	2	1	5	2	55
3. Soufrière -	24	16	21	20	4	5	4	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	5	7	5	5	16	6	176
4. Choiseul - -	11	12	10	5	3	5	1	-	-	2	1	3	-	4	-	-	1	1	3	8	70
5. Laborie - -	18	7	6	2	5	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	-	3	1	4	5	63
6. Vieuxfort -	17	12	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	2	3	3	-	2	4	4	61
7. Mico and Praslin.	7	6	2	6	1	2	1	1	-	1	2	3	3	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	41
8. Dennery -	7	15	6	4	2	2	1	-	3	-	1	2	1	3	3	-	3	2	3	3	61
9. Dauphin and Gros-Islet.	19	16	9	6	4	1	2	4	2	1	4	3	2	1	4	2	2	1	3	1	87
	143	126	84	60	27	21	14	12	17	16	36	33	45	36	32	24	32	28	73	69	
	269		144		48		26		33		69		81		56		60		142		928

TABLE showing the CAUSES of DEATH.

Causes of Deaths.	Under one year.		From 1 to 15 years.		Adults.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Zymotic diseases - - -	22	25	41	38	46	26	198
Sporadic diseases—							
Of uncertain or variable seat -	16	21	18	22	31	29	137
Of the nervous system - -	13	16	31	21	19	16	116
Of the organs of circulation -	—	—	—	—	6	4	10
Of the respiratory organs -	7	2	11	3	41	40	104
Of the digestive organs -	2	1	2	1	20	16	42
Of the urinary organs - -	—	—	1	—	10	6	17
Rheumatism and other diseases of the joints, bones, and ligaments.	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
Elephantiasis and other diseases of the Integumentary system—Yaws.	—	—	4	—	6	4	14
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	12	12
Premature birth and debility, &c.	20	20	—	—	—	—	40
Atrophy - - - -	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Age - - - - -	—	—	—	—	25	41	66
Destitution - - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malformations - - -	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dislocations - - - -	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Intemperance - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deaths by violence and accidents -	3	2	7	5	11	7	35
Bitten by serpents - - -	—	—	4	1	6	—	11
Stung by scorpion - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Still births - - - -	54	37	—	—	—	—	91
Unknown - - - -	5	—	6	2	9	2	24
	143	126	125	93	235	206	
	269		218		441		928

General Remarks.

There was no interruption in 1875 of the quiet and good order which have been the characteristic of Saint Lucia during recent years.

The steam communication between Castries and the towns and villages on the coast, which was established in 1870, has been maintained with tolerable regularity; but I am inclined to think that the company which controls it will not exist much longer if it should continue, as hitherto, to declare large dividends and to provide no reserve fund. Besides the inevitable loss from wear and tear, there is the possible loss of one or both of the company's vessels from accidents of the sea, against which there is no insurance. So that the existence of such a fund would seem to be more than usually necessary.

Communication with the outside world cannot be looked upon as satisfactory. There are still three mails per month to and from Europe, two by British and one by French mail steamers, but there are now only two mails per month to and from Barbados (the seat of the General Government) instead of four as formerly ; and even these two are at most inconvenient times.

In proof of this I may mention that only once a month, and sometimes not even once, is the course of post between the two Islands less than 12 days, while it is never less than this in the case of St. Vincent, the harbour of which is distant only 60 miles from Castries.

Owing to this infrequency of regular communication, the ignorance of the other Islands which exists here is complete, except as regards a small fraction of the people, and what little is known of their affairs is not unfrequently learned in the first instance from the English papers.

The sixth year of the present Administration of the Government having been completed in 1875, I trust that this occasion will not be deemed inappropriate for a review of the principal events which have occurred and the more important of the legislative and executive reforms introduced in the period referred to.

Early in this period, an inquiry into the administration of justice revealed many serious abuses, arising partly from defects in the law, which had been a long standing reproach to the Colony.

A vacancy which occurred in the office of Chief Justice rendered it comparatively easy to bring about immediate improvement. The occasion was seized to impose upon future incumbents duties of which some had formerly belonged to the office and others are such as, being purely judicial, are properly delegated only when the time of the judge is otherwise fully occupied.

In the former class was the hearing of appeals from the Magistrates' Courts, a duty which had been performed at unnecessary

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expense by a second Judge; in the latter the drawing of "rapports d'ordre," called in England the marshalling of assets, by which the different claimants of the proceeds of an estate sold by the Court are ranked according to the nature of their claims.

In my report for 1870 was shown the satisfactory result which had immediately followed the introduction of the latter of these reforms. This result has proved to be permanent, and the costs attending judicial sales, which in the 10 years preceding 1871 had amounted on the average to 28 per cent. of the whole proceeds of the property, have of late years averaged under 3 per cent.

In 1875 the average was only 1·7 per cent.

This reform for the first time rendered small properties a security for money, inasmuch as previously the whole proceeds of sale had in several instances been consumed by the costs; and I therefore attribute to it principally the remarkable increase of late years in the production of peasant proprietors, which again has been unquestionably one of the main causes of the recent progress of the Colony.

Contemporaneously with the above change was one by which the administration of the estates of bankrupts, absentees, &c. was transferred to an officer of the Government called the Colonial Trustee. Previously to this appointment no account of their administration had for many years been required from the persons entrusted with these duties; and as no payments were made into Court, the destination of the moneys collected was never known and can only be imagined.

Another subject of complaint on my arrival in the Colony was the state of the registry, the work of which had for several years been so much in arrear as to cause serious public inconvenience. This office was, within a few months, brought into order without expense to the public; and the approval expressed by the Secretary of State has been fully justified by the satisfactory condition of the office since that time under the present Registrar.

Other most useful reforms in and connected with the courts have from time to time been introduced by the present Chief Justice, and others again, of which his experience has proved the necessity, will shortly be laid before the Legislature.

But notwithstanding these beneficial changes, the duties of all the courts are attended with peculiar difficulties, owing to the confused condition of the law (which I intend to bring under your Excellency's notice in a separate report).

The Civil Code, which is now finally completed, and the Ordinances which have been prepared for consolidating and amending the laws relating to summary procedure in the Magistrates' Courts, will, I trust, in a large measure remedy the above defects.

In 1871 was passed an Ordinance for regulating the relations between employers and servants, the only law on the subject previously existing having been one which was devised for recently emancipated slaves.

The new law, while providing severe penalties for wanton breach of contract, such as are absolutely necessary in the West Indies, at the same time gives to the labourer a ready means of redress for injuries, and in one respect, I refer to the provisions against illegal arrest, affords him a safeguard which, I believe, would be found valuable elsewhere.

To the generally upright and impartial administration by all the courts of this and other laws affecting the working classes, I attribute in no small measure the contentment which now reigns in the Island, and which is in marked contrast with the temper which existed not very long ago.

As also largely conducing to the same result, I may mention the measures passed in 1871, and in subsequent years, for providing the poorer classes with medical and surgical relief.

Before 1871, there were only three properly qualified medical practitioners in the Island, all of them living in Castries; and of these, one was so old that his office had become a sinecure, and another was engaged in other than medical duties. There was, moreover, only one hospital, and that quite inadequate to the requirements of even a single district, and only one dispensary.

There are now four hospitals (including the large one already described) and five medical officers stationed in the three districts of the Island, who, by visits at fixed times to nine different dispensaries, bring free medical and surgical relief within the reach of nearly the whole population.

As an indication of the value placed upon these advantages by the people, it will be seen from the blue book returns that in 1875 848 persons were treated in hospitals and 2,186 relieved at the dispensaries.

The measures which brought about these changes met with considerable opposition on account of their cost, and could only be introduced gradually, but if your Excellency's predecessor was, as I believe, correct in attributing to them principally the fact that our population has remained at home, while those of the Islands on either side of us have emigrated in large numbers, the money has, even in an economical point of view, been well expended.

Cognate to the above measures was the Vaccination Ordinance which came into force in 1872. Owing to vacancies in the medical staff, and to other reasons, there has been a difficulty in keeping up a supply of lymph, and a regular supply will now, I hope, be obtained from England. But in spite of this, there have been in the four years 3,369 successful operations, almost all upon children under five, and it is satisfactory to be able to state that the people have always readily accepted vaccination for their children, and that there has never been occasion to resort to the penal clauses of the Ordinance.

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As the condition and disposition of the labouring classes in the West Indies are now specially occupying public attention, it may not be inopportune to mention here an event which occurred in 1870.

The people of a large village in the Island had been in a turbulent condition. Their houses were built upon the "Cinquante "pas du Roi," a slip of land all round the coast of the Island, which was reserved for Government during the French possession of the Island. This land is usually considered as belonging to the estate to which it adjoins until claimed by the Government, but the village in question, having been established at least as long ago as 1787, the owners of lots had legally prescribed all rights but those of the crown.

The villagers were chiefly fishermen, but the new proprietor of the neighbouring estate, had adopted various measures with a view to their ejection, and had been permitted, before my arrival in the Colony, to pull down a school house which was in course of erection by them.

There had been precedents for the ejection of other villagers under similar circumstances, the occupants obtaining no redress; and as the people of this village were apprehending a similar result and were beginning to retaliate in various ways upon the proprietor of the plantation, the case seemed a proper one for Government interference.

A proclamation was therefore issued claiming the site of the village on behalf of the Crown, and the land was divided and sold to the existing occupants on easy terms.

This course, as might be expected, was not popular among the proprietary class, and was strenuously opposed by the proprietor in question; but the eventual result proved, I believe, as satisfactory to him as to the people. I am informed that more of them now work for the estate. There have been no further complaints from either side, and the villagers recently showed their disposition to the Government by offering to assist in quelling a threatened disturbance in another quarter of the Island.

I have dwelt upon the incident because, though in itself trifling, it throws a light upon the causes which have given rise to discontent among populations such as that of St. Lucia.

In 1871 was established a Government savings bank. The deposits in this institution, though gradually increasing, are still trifling in amount. As far as I can ascertain, it is chiefly used by immigrants from Barbados, who, as a rule, are possessed of an intelligence superior to that of the natives.

Measures are being considered for rendering this institution more generally useful, and for making its benefit better known; but I do not expect that it will ever be used except for very small savings, inasmuch as cheap land and cattle afford more remunerative investment.

Another important change that has taken place within the period under review has been in connexion with the roads.

Previously to 1872 the roads were managed by local committees, and were repaired partly by statute labour (a relic of the French Corvée) and partly under contracts, the performance of which was supposed to be supervised by the magistrates, who had quite sufficient of their more legitimate duties to fully occupy their attention.

The abuses of this system were many. The large proportion of profit from the contracts had become matter of notoriety, while the statute labourers spent a considerable portion of the six days of nominal labour in dancing and drinking rum (which was supplied by Government), and such little work as was really done was not unfrequently applied to roads which, though convenient to the larger estates, afforded comparatively little benefit to the general public.

Under the Road Ordinance of 1871 this system was completely swept away, statute labour was abolished, and the direct responsibility for the roads was assumed by the Government.

The result of this change has been that the officer in charge of the roads (who has known the Colony for many years) is now able to report that the roads generally are probably in a better condition than ever before, a statement which is certainly correct so far as my limited experience extends; and, moreover, while formerly complaints respecting the roads were frequent and bitter, they have gradually ceased, and not one representation on the subject reached the Government during 1875, though it was a year of exceptionally heavy rainfall.

I am very far from wishing it to be supposed that the roads are all that can be desired. The nature of the surface of the Island (which consists mainly of high and precipitous mountains, enclosing narrow valleys), and the heavy rainfall and consequent force of the mountain torrents, render the construction and maintenance of really good roads utterly beyond the means of a sparse population. And I doubt whether macadamized roads, with sufficiently easy gradients for carriages, could be constructed throughout the Island, except for a sum quite beyond the reach of much more important Colonies than this.

All that can be expected under the present circumstances of the Island is that communication shall be kept open, and that all the public roads shall ordinarily be "passable" for man and horse, and practicable for carts as regards those portions required by the estates. These objects have now been fairly obtained.

In connexion with this subject, I may mention that in the place of the statute labour, was substituted a tax upon all males between 16 and 60, of 6*s*. per head, that being the amount previously paid by those who chose to commute.

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I am glad to be able to report that, in accordance with the anticipation expressed by me at the introduction of the measure, this tax has been collected without any disturbances, such as have previously attended the levying of poll tax in the West Indies.

This result has been due partly to the general contentment of the people, but chiefly to the precautions which were taken in levying it. Instructions were given for a resort to prosecution for default only in the more serious cases in the first instance, so that the incidence of the impost might be felt only by degrees.

In consequence of this precaution, a considerable number escaped the tax in the first year of its imposition; but the amount paid has progressively increased from 981*l.* 13*s.* in 1872 to 1,535*l.* in 1875.

The latter amount indicates the payment of about 5,000 people, and making allowance for those in ill health, and those exempted under the Ordinance, this may be looked upon as a fairly exhaustive collection.

Another change which has been productive of considerable benefit to the community was the abolition in 1872 of the corporation of Castries.

This body, which had been intended to contain "the germ of "representative institutions," had not proved a success. It had spent considerable sums of money with very little visible effect. The streets were filthy, and overrun with grass, the wharves were nearly all falling into decay; and owing to the many exemptions from house tax and other causes, the town was frequently unable to meet its engagements.

When the abolition of the corporation was first mooted, it met with considerable opposition; but by degrees it would seem the people became convinced of its expediency, and the Ordinance transferring the conduct of the town to the Government was passed unanimously by the Council, while a protest which was circulated received only one signature.

Since the passing of the Ordinance the town has become comparatively clean, the wharves have been for the most part renewed, the streets have been in many respects improved, and in 1875 there was, for the first time, a considerable surplus in the municipal treasury.

A measure which contains most of the principal provisions of the above Ordinance, has been since applied to the town of Soufrière and some other villages of the Island. A small tax has been placed upon the houses, and the proceeds expended upon local improvement. The money raised is very small, but the measure has been indirectly useful in educating the people to understand that improvements must be paid for by those who enjoy the benefit.

There has been a considerable number of changes in the official staff during the six years, and though the total expenditure on

salaries has considerably increased, this has been almost entirely on account of new services, such as that of the Medical Officers, the Colonial Engineer and Surveyor, the Manager of the Savings' Bank, and the Colonial Trustee. And it will be found that the services previously existing cost now even less than before, though the population has, through immigration, as well as from natural causes, increased probably by 13 per cent.

This has been owing to various amalgamations of departments, the principal of which were (1) that of the departments of the Provost Marshal, the Inland Revenue, and the Police; and (2) that of the Registrar of the Courts, the Registrar General of Births and Deaths and the Audit Office, both of which, the former especially, effected considerable saving, while at the same time enabling the payment of better salaries.

I was at one time strongly inclined to carry the principle of amalgamation further still, and judging merely from the names of the offices, this would undoubtedly be expedient. But experience has taught me that each of the officers, whose designations sound incongruous with the dimensions of the Island, in fact performs many other duties than those which belong to the similar office in large, communities, and I am now convinced that every one of the principal officers of the Island has fully sufficient work to occupy his time, when his duty is fairly performed, as, I am happy to believe, it generally is.

That the public work (with the single exception mentioned in the case of education) is not done at undue expense is shown by the fact that though the laws are as much respected, and life and property are as safe as is the case anywhere, though medical attendance is free to all the poor, justice is easily within the reach of the poorest, and the people are perhaps as happy and contented as any other in the world, yet the total cost of Government (local and municipal being now included with the general Government) is only 18*s.* per head; and this, though the sparseness of the population causes some services to be necessarily attended with much greater proportionate expense than the similar ones in more crowded communities.

Considering all things, I doubt whether there is any other community in the world more cheaply, if as cheaply, governed as the people of St. Lucia.

St. Kitts.

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No. 10.

GOVERNOR BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, St. Kitts,
April 12, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the past year, together with a report thereon from President Moir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Government Office,
February 26, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1876.

2. In my Despatch No. 47, of the 17th April 1876, I enumerated the changes which had been effected in the taxes, duties, and other sources of revenue, and the absolute necessity for these changes has been incontestibly proved by the result of the past year's financial transactions.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
3. The estimated revenue was calculated to give -	29,766
It realised - - - - -	31,577
Or an excess of - -	1,811
The estimated expenditure was taken at - -	28,244
It amounted to - - - -	27,992
Or a saving of - -	252

4. There was considerable opposition, in the Legislative Assembly, to the imposition of a temporary tax of 25 per cent. on the amount collected for the import duties, the export duties, and the cavalry tax, and an unwonted outcry against this tax was fostered by one or two of the local newspapers, the authors knowing little or nothing of what they wrote about; yet it is most fortunate, for the credit of the Island, that the measure was carried by my casting vote, for otherwise there would have been

an actual excess of expenditure over revenue in the year's accounts, thus—

	£	£
Additional duty -	-	4,281
Total revenue -	31,577	
Total expenditure -	27,992	
		3,585
Or a contingent loss of -		696

5. The other new source of revenue, the excise duty on rum, was estimated to yield 2,000*l.* It, however, gave 2,653*l.*, and although some liquor licenses failed to be renewed the combined receipts amounted to - - - - £3,685
While the licenses alone yielded in 1874 - - £2,283
Showing a gain of - - £1,402

6. The comparative yearly statement of the revenue and expenditure shows that the

	£	*s.*	*d.*
revenue amounted in 1876 to - -	31,577	4	4
And in 1875 to - - - -	26,566	9	1
Or an increase of - -	5,010	15	3
The expenditure amounted in 1876 to -	27,992	12	9
And in 1875 to - - - -	27,144	14	4
Also an increase of - -	847	18	5

7. The two additional duties referred to above account for the increase in the revenue and the payment of 600*l.* of the telegraph subsidy nearly covers the increased expenditure.

8. The increase and decrease on the several sources of revenue and items of expenditure are fully explained in the return itself, which shows an increase on the latter of 1,936*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, less a decrease of 1,089*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*=847*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*

Public Works.

9. With the exception of the usual annual repairs to the main road round the Island, and the streets of the towns and villages, but little had been effected under this head. The removal of the old grammar school to the Cunningham Hospital premises, in order to afford additional accommodation in that institution, was commenced and it will shortly be completed. Water pipes were laid down to supply the town of Old Road with water, one of the rivers formerly flowing through that town having been diverted for the better water supply to the capital. The other amounts expended were for petty repairs only, the state of the public funds preventing the consideration of works and improvements which would otherwise claim attention.

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Legislation.

10. The principal Acts passed during the year was one to regulate burials in the new cemetery of the parish of St. Mary Cayon, and one to demonetise silver dollars.

Population.

11. I believe that the returns made under the Acts for the registration of births, deaths, and burials are efficient, and may be relied on as correct. The following is a synopsis of these returns for the last three years :—

Years.	No. of Births and Still Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1874	1,094 B.	257	211	322	304
	109 S. B.	14	9	46	40
1875	1,180 B.	225	234	361	360
	105 S. B.	9	11	41	44
1876	1,110 B.	209	205	363	333
	121 S. B.	13	13	51	44
Totals -	3,719	727	683	1,184	1,125

The complexion of these infants are returned as follows :—

Years.	Number.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
1874 - -	1,203	898	112	193
1875 - -	1,285	999	65	221
1876 - -	1,231	967	76	188
Totals -	3,719	2,864	253	602

The number of deaths during the same years was as follows :—

Years.	Number.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
1874 - -	1,010	750	83	177
1875 - -	1,143	897	69	177
1876 - -	879	703	39	137
Totals -	3,032	2,350	191	491

The probable population I estimated last year at -		28,659
Return of births for 1876 - - -	1,231	
„ deaths „ - - -	879	
		352
Present probable population - - -		29,011

12. A report on this interesting subject I shall transmit in a separate Despatch, in which the cause of death, the sanitary condition of the Presidency, and some practical suggestions with reference to the preservation and improvement of the public health will be incorporated, treated in a scientific manner by a qualified medical practitioner.

13. I would now only remark that it is very deplorable to compare the number of legitimate with that of the illegitimate offspring, namely, 1,410 of the former against 2,309 of the latter, and perhaps the consequent and still further startling fact, that while out of the legitimates, numbering 1,410, only 69 were returned as "still-born," no less than 236 out of the 2,309 illegitimates, are ranged under that category.

The tables containing the abstract of births and deaths, and the classification of deaths for the past year, I forwarded to you in a separate letter by the last mail.

There were 521 cases of successful vaccination reported during the year, and I have called the attention of the Superintendent of the Cunningham Hospital to the want of a proper supply of vaccine lymph, of which the district medical officers, to whom I have several times written on the subject, complain.

The ministers of the different denominations return the number of marriages during 1876 at 150, against 83 in the previous year.

Ecclesiastical.

14. The Reverend Mr. Gittens, who had been rector of St. Ann's parish for 35 years, died on the 2nd June 1876, in consequence of which the church was disendowed, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 7 and 13 of 1874, and the tax upon exports from that parish ceased, as provided by Act No. 16 of 1874.

Education.

15. The report, by the Inspector of Schools, for 1876 exhibits an advance in the average attendance at the schools which have come under the operation of the Federal Act to regulate the grant of aid to elementary schools. The average attendance in 1875 was 1,327, and that in 1876 was 1,525. Two schools have obtained a 1st class, four schools a 2nd class, and 14 schools a 3rd class certificate, while five others have received exceptional aid. The class grants earned amounted to 261*l.* 5*s.*, and the capitation grant to 316*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; in all 577*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* Some dissatisfaction was at first expressed with the working of the Act, but it is growing in favour, and the "payment by results" fosters emulation on the part of the teachers, and secures a more favourable effect on the scholars than was obtained under the previous Act.

ST. KITTS.

Imports and Exports.

16. The following table shows the value of the imports and exports from and to the different countries mentioned during the last three years:—

IMPORTS from

Countries.	1874.			1875.			1876.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	64,309	8	11	61,598	9	8	70,827	3	9
British West Indies -	18,739	17	9	16,933	14	9	16,697	9	8
British North America -	5,158	1	2	6,482	13	8	6,148	3	6
Foreign countries - -	-	-	-	178	1	1	199	12	6
Foreign West Indies -	5,085	16	3	2,618	13	2	2,997	14	9
United States America -	35,517	10	7	45,046	16	7	42,426	1	4
	128,810	14	8	132,858	3	11	139,296	5	6

EXPORTS to

Countries.	1874.			1875.			1876.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	119,829	7	10	114,101	7	8	123,755	5	1
British West Indies -	9,852	14	6	7,862	1	4	7,860	8	9
British North America -	1,377	7	0	3,208	18	5	5,309	17	10
Foreign countries - -	—			—			—		
Foreign West Indies -	10,793	3	1	8,134	13	7	5,815	16	3
United States America -	4,290	7	0	7,235	10	8	13,409	2	11
	146,142	19	5	140,542	11	8	156,150	10	10

The exportation of the three staple productions of the Presidency for the same periods was as follows:—

Years.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	hogsheads.	puncheons.	gallons.
1874 - -	8,317	1,195	173,420
1875 - -	10,357	1,350	335,223
1876 - -	10,186	1,542	308,564

The other productions exported were:—

Years.	Salt.	Potatoes.	Arrowroot.	Tous les Mois.	Tamarinds.	Pickles.
	barrels.	barrels.	lbs.	lbs.	gallons.	gallons.
1874 -	13,576	4,846	1,500	44,834	840	6,300
1875 -	13,774	3,146	5,930	48,775	114	2,030
1876 -	12,484	6,464	5,300	51,873	15	4,968

Shipping.

17. The tonnage of sailing vessels inwards was:—

Years.	With Cargo.		In ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
1874	544	19,473	214	5,316	758	24,989	2,998
1875	582	24,218	224	8,046	806	32,264	3,947
1876	599	24,736	292	6,253	891	30,989	4,103

The tonnage of sailing vessels outwards was—

Years.	With Cargo.		In ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
1874	665	20,479	100	4,092	755	24,571	3,060
1875	679	26,763	126	5,475	805	32,238	3,942
1876	775	23,487	116	7,981	891	31,468	4,156

Gaols and Prisons.

18. The following is a comparative return of the statistics of the gaol during the last three years.

The total number of persons committed was—

Years.	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.
1874	384	129	16
1875	476	167	21
1876	348	171	29

Of whom there were previously convicted—

Years.	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or oftener.
1874	58	40	151
1875	101	125	170
1876	49	59	92

The daily average number in prison was—

In 1874 a fraction over 77.
„ 1875 „ 87.
„ 1876 „ 75.

The expenditure on this establishment was—

	£
In 1874 - - -	1,174
„ 1875 - - -	1,178
„ 1876 - - -	1,198

Criminal Statistics.

Offences.	No. of Persons summarily convicted.			No. sent for trial to Supreme Court.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Against the person -	591	428	505	24	29	51
Predial larceny - -	68	98	112	—	4	2
Against property other than predial larceny -	385	467	186	41	56	37
Against Masters and Servants' Act -	143	96	133	—	—	—
Other offences - -	1,072	355	748	29	22	10
	2,259	1,644	1,684	94	111	100

Offences.	No. of Persons convicted in the Superior Courts.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.
Against the person - - -	10	18	25
Predial larceny - - -	12	0	0
Against property other than predial larceny - - - -	26	34	22
Other offences - - - -	2	11	14
	50	63	61

—	1874.	1875.	1876.
Number of persons acquitted—			
In Inferior Courts - - -	2,857	2,812	2,777
In Superior Courts - -	20	31	47

The punishments inflicted on those summarily convicted in 1874, 1875, and 1876 were as follows:—

Punishment.	Total Number of Offences.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.
Fine - - - - -	1,793	1,588	1,396
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	286	357	295
Peremptory imprisonment - -	129	166	147
Whipping - - - -	3	—	2
Bound over - - - -	48	35	82
	2,259	2,146	1,922

In the Supreme Court, judgment was obtained for the Crown in 1 case of manslaughter, 2 of unnatural crime, 22 of other

offences against the person, 22 of offences against property, and 14 of a miscellaneous character.

Hospitals.

20. More applications for admittance of patients and destitute persons into the Cunningham Hospital are made than there are beds to accommodate; even now, the limit of 90, fixed by the Act, is frequently exceeded, so that it has been found absolutely necessary to increase the accommodation, and for that purpose the old grammar school has been removed to the hospital premises, which will afford room for the immediate increase of 15 beds, which can at any time be doubled by a little additional expense.

Both this hospital, and that at Sandy Point, continue their usefulness, under the careful management of Drs. Boon and Simper.

The following shows the numbers of poor patients treated during the past year:—

—	Number remaining in Hospital on 1st January 1876.		Number admitted during the Year 1876.		Number of Patients discharged.						Number of Patients who died during 1876.		Number of Patients remaining on the 31st December 1876.	
					Cured.		Relieved.		Not improved.					
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Cunningham Hospital	60	29	135	112	83	68	26	7	3	1	26	28	57	37
Sandy Point Hospital	12	2	40	31	34	19	4	2	1	1	4	7	8	5
	72	31	175	143	117	87	30	9	4	2	30	35	65	42

21. The average number of inmates in the lunatic asylum was 17. Of these six were admitted during the year, four were discharged cured, and four patients died. Two males and five females are classified as "maniacal," nine males and five females as "quiet chronic," and one male and one female as "idiotic."

22. The cost of these establishments was as follows:—

Cunningham Hospital and Lunatic Asylum:

	£	s.	d.
Salaries - - -	355	0	0
Maintenance, &c. -	1,483	12	0
Sandy Point:			
Salaries - - -	70	0	0
Maintenance, &c. -	429	15	11
	£2,338	7	11

ST. KITTS. Also—

	£	s.	d.
Expended by Dr. Boon for lepers and out-door relief - - - -	142	4	0
Expended by President for soup kitchen -	371	4	6
Expended by district medical officers for poor relief - - - -	416	18	6
	£930	7	0

Conclusion.

23. The present prospects for the future crop are very promising, but I fear when the estimates were framed by my locum tenens of the crop now being reaped that sufficient allowance was not made for the injury done to the canes by the heavy gale of the 12th September last, and that the result will be a falling off of about 2,000 hogsheads from what was anticipated. The experienced planter, however, I have found as frequently mistaken in such calculations as the official. So very much depends on the amount of rain which may fall at the usual, and sometimes at unusual, periods of the year, that the most careful estimate is frequently at fault.

24. The health of the Presidency was better during 1876 than for many previous years, the death rate of 879 persons being the smallest since the year 1866, and 264 less than in the year 1875.

In the year 1860 the population was returned as amounting to 24,303, and the deaths were 1,065. The population was estimated last year to number 28,659, and the deaths were only 879, as above stated, so that these figures argue in favour of a probably improved sanitary condition of the people generally, but the reduction of the death rate is more especially due to the absence of the usual annual epidemic of dysentery.

25. Although there was not a larger crop shipped than in 1875, yet the labour and reaping were spread over a longer period, and the consequence was a larger expenditure in wages, and less distress generally among the labouring population.

26. The explosion of the steam boiler attached to the sugar works at Ottley's Estate, Cayon, resulted in the loss of life to four persons, and the injury of seven others. A Bill, requiring the examination by a competent person of all steam engines, boilers, &c., at certain periods, has been passed by the Legislative Assembly, and is now under the consideration of the Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. M. MOIR,
President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary
of the Leeward Islands.

NEVIS.

No. 11.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, St. Kitts,
April 12, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your lordship the Blue Book of Nevis for the past year, together with a report thereon from President Goldsworthy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon.
&c. &c. &c.

Taxes and other Sources of Revenue.

From a comparison between the Blue Books of 1875 and 1876 it will be observed that the sources from which the revenue was derived were considerably augmented in the latter year by the imposition of fresh taxes, which owing to the financial state of the Island became a necessity, to enable large outstanding arrears to be paid off and to provide for the repayment of certain loans.

The taxes thus imposed were as follows:—

A house tax of four per cent. on the annual rental.

An excise duty of 1*s.* 7*d.* per gallon on proof rum and 1*d.* extra for every 5° above proof.

The tax on horses and carriages which had been in operation since 1854 was doubled.

The Stamp Act was likewise introduced, and became law in September 1876.

The boat tax was also passed, the object was, however, to give increased powers to the executive, than to serve as a means of increasing the revenue.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The net revenue for the past year amounted to 10,189*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* whilst the net expenditure was 10,444*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.*, of this sum, however, the following payments were special and exceptional—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Restoration of churches, being balance due 548*l.* voted in 1874	498	10	0
Arrears of salary due, Capt. Campbell as President	515	17	6
Repayment of loans	1,000	0	0
Interest on loans	164	0	0
Total	2,178	7	6

NEVIS.

The increase in the revenue was chiefly derived from import and export duties and the additional duties imposed thereon; the amount received in 1876 exceeded that of the preceding year by 2,233*l.* 19*s.* 9¾*d.*

The decrease occurs chiefly under the heading of fees. This results from there not being a docket of fees for the Registrar's office, for which the Federal Government can alone legislate.

The decrease in the receipts for land tax resulted from all holders of land under two acres being exempt. This provision did not exist in 1875.

The expenditure for 1876 was certainly larger than in preceding years, notably in the works and buildings, but under this head is charged 498*l.* 10*s.* the balance of 548*l.* voted by the House of Assembly for repairs to the Anglican churches on disestablishment taking place in 1874.

The subjoined is the account of net revenue and expenditure for the following years:—

	Net Revenue.			Net Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1874 - -	6,197	10	2	5,657	15	10½
1875 - -	7,556	6	4	7,725	13	0½
1876 - -	10,189	14	5	10,444	11	6½

Public Debt.

The sum of 3,400*l.* was at the end of the year 1876 the public debt of this Presidency.

The interest on the same is at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

Public Works.

During the year 1876 the new working of the Public Roads Act, No. 6, has proved beneficial.

The principal portions of the main road in St. Thomas, St. Paul, and some part of Windward (St. James) parishes have been repaired, whilst improvements have also been effected in Goat Pen Lane and between Gingerland (St. George's) Church and Symonds Estate, whereby it is hoped eventually to make the main road on a lower level and more direct route between New River and Charlestown.

The town of Charlestown itself has been rendered less unsightly by the substitution of two small gardens, one where the open market place originally stood and the other on a spot usually used as a rubbish shoot.

The re-roofing of the court house which was partially destroyed by fire in 1873 has been commenced, when completed it will prove one of the finest courts in the Leeward Islands.

A new bridge is in course of construction at Sones', and the several culverts and causeways constructed during the year have considerably improved the means of communication.

The water supply for Charlestown and Gingerland is very limited. It would, I think, be quite possible to obtain a good

supply for the former from Moreton's Bay, about three miles distant, or from the Bath Steam only, half a mile distant. With the view to ascertain the properties of the water I have sent samples to England to be subjected to analysis.

The first expense would be great and a limited water rate would willingly be paid by the inhabitants to obtain what is so necessary and essential to health, viz., a good and unfailing supply of wholesome water; at present a few wells and rain water gathered in small cisterns from the roofs of houses afford the only supply for the inhabitants of the town.

Pensions.

The increase under this head is 63*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* authorised under Acts No. 9 and 18 of 1876.

Population and Health.

The census of 1871 gave the population of Nevis at 11,680, of whom 5,433 were males, and 6,247 females, since that period the births have considerably exceeded the mortality as shown by the subjoined registry of births and deaths for the five years subsequent to 1871.

It is said that a large number of the agricultural and labouring population have emigrated to neighbouring islands. Whilst the number of those leaving can be ascertained, and which amounted in the last four years to 390, there is not the same means of showing what new settlers arrive. I think, however, from information gleaned on the spot that not more than one third are permanently absent from the Island, which would give a decrease of population of about 163 for the five years ending 1876.

Looking, however, to the excess of births amounting to 999 over deaths, and the importation of 315 coolies in 1874 into the Island, the population may fairly be assumed at the present moment to number close on 13,000 of both sexes.

The health of the Island has been good, and the death rate not so large as in preceding years; this has been the case more particularly at the infirmary and hospital where the sanitary arrangements have been improved.

The Vaccination Act which for the last two or three years had become almost a dead letter, was by the exertions of the medical officers strictly carried out as the accompanying return showing 849 vaccinations, and these in the the latter half of 1876, will conclusively prove.

Education.

The report of the inspector-general of schools shows a decided improvement in those conducted by the Wesleyans, whilst in the schools of the Anglican Church there has been a falling off. This may be in part owing to the extra work which has been thrown for a large portion of the year on the only two Anglican clergymen in the Island, one of their number being absent

through ill-health. In consequence the same supervision could not be given.

Agriculture and Land.

By far the greater acreage of the Island is not cultivated, the cultivated portion showing only 7,953½ acres, of which 4,446½ acres is in canes. There can be no doubt that this arises chiefly from the want of capital, and in some measures from a scarcity of labour. There are also 3,694¼ planted in provisions.

Imports and Exports.

The importation this year from the United Kingdom amounted in value to 11,390*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, against 4,564*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in 1875, those from British Colonies to 17,594*l.* 13*s.*, against 14,310*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* in the preceding year, whilst the importation, amounting to 8,947*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, more than doubled those of the year 1875, which only amounted to 4,219*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* The total value of imports for 1876 was 37,932*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, as against 23,094*l.* 10*s.*

The exports for 1876 compared with those for 1875 will be sufficiently explained by the subjoined table, they fall short of 1875 by 3,231*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* I attribute this to the partial failure of the sugar crop in 1876.

—	1876.			1875.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Exports to United Kingdom -	28,359	8	4	33,769	11	8
„ British Colonies -	14,781	4	1	16,706	14	8
„ Foreign Colonies -	11,541	17	4	7,437	1	9
	54,682	9	9	57,913	8	1
				54,682	9	9
				3,231	18	4

Shipping.

The Treasurer's returns show an increase of trade in this department in 1876, over the year 1875 as follows :—

—	Vessels.	Tons.
1875 - -	101	7,046
1876 - -	221	9,699

General Remarks.

The health of the Island during 1876 was comparatively good. The public finances assumed a more healthy condition, and it is reasonably to be presumed that if the revenue continues to

improve as it has done, in a year or two hence the liabilities of the Island will be liquidated.

REGISTER of BIRTHS and DEATHS in the ISLAND of NEVIS for the Years 1872 to 1876 inclusive.

Parishes.	Births.			Deaths.			Excess of Births over Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		
St. Paul -	175	174	349	188	198	386	—	37
St. John -	349	305	654	213	173	386	268	—
St. George -	521	451	972	312	279	591	361	—
St. James -	304	251	555	153	141	294	261	—
St. Thomas -	356	331	687	293	248	541	146	—
	1,705	1,512	3,217	1,159	1,039	2,198	1,036	37

VACCINATION RETURN, showing Total Number of Vaccinations for Six Years ending 31st December 1876.

Parish.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	Total.
St. Paul - -	—	—	—	—	—	178	178
St. John - -	654	158	—	—	—	181	993
St. George - -	—	1,380	—	—	—	83	1,463
St. James - -	484	343	—	—	—	270	1,097
St. Thomas - -	—	—	—	—	—	137	137
	1,138	1,881	—	—	—	849	3,868

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 12.

Governor SIR C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE, G.C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, May 3, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1876, to which I append, for the information of your Lordship, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. T. VAN STRAUBENZEE,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
April 30, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1876, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Legislation.

The Ordinances promulgated during the year were—

1. "To make certain provisions for the prevention of Accidents at Sea, and for the better protection of Maritime Trade."
2. "To amend the Criminal Laws."
3. "To make some provisions respecting certain Children."
4. "To remove a doubt respecting the application of Ordinance No. 2 of 1875 to certain Telegraphs."
5. "To prevent the introduction of Diseases affecting Agricultural Produce."
6. "To amend the Police Laws, so far as they refer to the desertion of seamen."
7. "To amend Ordinance No. 2 of 1870."
8. "To make some provisions concerning certain property destined for Divine Service according to the rites of the Anglican Church, and some other property connected therewith."
9. "To amend the Laws of Organisation and Civil Procedure."
10. "For applying a sum not exceeding 13,500*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* to the service of the year 1875."
11. "For applying a sum not exceeding 107,462*l.* to the service of the year 1877."

Pensions.

The total amount of pensions chargeable on the revenues of this Colony was 9,302*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* The amount of pensions which

lapsed on account of the death of pensioners was 602*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, and the additional pensions granted during the year amounted to 895*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* The above totals give a small difference (292*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*) between 1875 and 1876.

Civil Establishments.

There were no important changes in the service during the year 1876, except the appointment of Dr. Giuseppe Gasan as one of Her Majesty's judges in the place of Dr. Giovanni Conti, who retired on a pension; of Mr. Frederick Purefoy Hoare as Auditor General, in succession to the late Mr. R. C. Legh; of Commodore Hasting S. De Robeck, R.N., as Superintendent of the Ports, in succession to Rear-Admiral Hoseason, resigned; and of Dr. Giuseppe Micallef as magistrate of the Courts of Judicial Police for the Island of Malta, in the place of Dr. Carlo Carbone, who retired on a pension.

Finance.

1. The gross revenue for 1876 was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Local - - -	170,232	6	2¼
Crown agents - -	5,770	6	3
	176,002	12	5¼

2. The average revenue for the five years preceding 1876, after deducting all exceptional items, was 165,755*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*

Actual Revenues.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For 1871 - - -	162,941	0	0
„ 1872 - - -	170,870	0	0
„ 1873 - - -	162,283	0	0
„ 1874 - - -	163,080	0	0
„ 1875 - - -	169,602	0	0
	5) 828,776	0	0
	165,755	4	0

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Deducting from the gross revenue of 1876 the products of land sales - -	1,523	5	6¼
And sale of Government property -	190	18	9
	1,714	4	3¼

which are invested in consols, the revenue of 1876 will be 174,288*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, or 8,533*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* above the average revenue of the five preceding years, and 4,686*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* above that of 1875.

MALTA.

3. The principal differences in the receipts of 1876, as compared with those of 1875, excluding the items of land and Government property sales and of certain reimbursements to Government, are as follows:—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Customs - - - - -	5,995	—
Licenses - - - - -	128	—
Fines - - - - -	207	—
Interest - - - - -	366	—
Rents (exclusive of land) - - -	60	—
Land revenue - - - -	—	1,123
	6,756	1,123

This large increase in the Customs' receipts is a satisfactory circumstance in the trade of Malta.

4. The provision for meeting the demands of 1876 was—

Estimated Expenditure.

—	Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Estimate -	74,147 15 3	85,901 0 0	160,048 15 3
Supplementary Estimates	2,530 15 9	19,877 7 9	22,408 3 6
Total - -	76,678 11 0	105,778 7 9	182,456 18 9

Actual Expenditure.

—	Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Estimate -	72,560 15 2	75,795 18 7	148,356 13 9
Supplementary Estimates	2,508 14 7	16,642 11 6	19,151 6 1
Total - -	75,069 9 9	92,438 10 1	167,507 19 10

5. The amount expended during 1876 under the head of "Works and Buildings" was 18,785*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, and "Roads, Streets, and Bridges" 14,850*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

6. The amount expended under the head of Charitable Institutions during 1876 was 28,221*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, or nearly one-sixth of the entire annual revenue of Malta.

Public Works.

The amount expended on public works during the year 1876 was 23,636*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* The restoration of the Theatre Royal, which is about being completed, is one of the important items of the

above expenditure. Repairs were effected in public buildings and in buildings yielding rent, and the usual repairs and cleansing of the roads and streets were carried on.

Imports and Exports.

There was an increase under imports and exports when compared with the results of 1875, namely:—

	£	s.	d.
Increase in value of imports -	1,567,449	0	0
Increase in value of exports -	1,518,301	0	0

which increase is to be attributed to the greater transit of grain which took place during 1876, particularly of Indian Corn. The consequent influence of the above fact on the total value of the goods would have been more remarkable, had the current market prices not fluctuated in the way of a general diminution during the year. It is, in fact, that diminution of prices which has caused the increase of quantities to be speculated upon in the importing countries.

Shipping.

The returns show an increase in the number of steamers inwards:—

—	Steamers.	Tons.
1875 - -	2,270	2,172,134
1876 - -	2,540	2,378,386
Increase -	270	206,252

and a small decrease in the number of sailing vessels inwards:—

—	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.
1875 - -	2,111	242,546
1876 - -	2,103	221,511
Decrease -	8	21,035

The departures of steamers was 2,537 (tons 2,377,775), and of sailing vessels 2,108 (tons 227,728), giving an increase in the number of clearances of steamers, and a small decrease on sailing vessels outward, over 1875.

Military Expenditure.

The total cost of the military establishment for the year 1876 amounted to 317,900*l.* 18*s.*, of which the Island has borne 2,500*l.*

Monte di Pietà and Savings Banks.

The amount advanced on pledges in 1876 by the Monte di Pietà was—

	£	s.	c.
In Malta - -	33,251	4	10
„ Gozo - -	1,599	13	10
	£34,850	18	8

The interest received and paid into the Treasury was 2,037*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*

The amount of deposits in savings banks on 31st December 1876 was—

	£	s.	d.			
In Malta -	190,694	2	3	by	3,125	depositors.
„ Gozo -	8,894	0	9	„	209	„
	£199,588	3	0			

Education.

The number of Government schools in this Colony is 85, with an average daily attendance of 8,828; 4,492 males, and 4,336 females, showing an addition, as compared with previous years, of four schools, and an increase of 504 pupils, 268 males and 236 females, over last year.

The consequent increase in the expenditure on education, as compared with that incurred in 1875, was 400*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

Population.

The population of this Colony on 31st December 1876 was 149,270, 74,169 males and 75,101 females, viz.:—

Malta - -	130,661	not including the
Gozo - -	18,609	Queen's troops,

showing an increase over the previous year of 1,964 individuals.

The number of births was 5,195, marriages 1,007, and deaths 3,231.

Rainfall.

The return of rainfall in Malta and Gozo, as compared with the previous year, gives a difference of increase ·84 on an area of 115 square miles:—

1875 - - -	27·27 inches.
1876 - - -	28·11 „

The average rainfall of the last 10 years is 19·40 inches per annum.

General Remarks.

The health of the Island was good throughout the year, and there was no epidemic disease. The yield of the Customs, the pulse of Malta, and the real test of its prosperity, amounted to 115,513*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* in 1876, an amount hitherto unprecedented in the annals of the Customs, showing an increase over the receipts of the preceding year of 6,014*l.*, and 11,642*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* over and

above the average of the last 20 years' receipts; and in making this exposition of the increase of the Customs, it is gratifying to be enabled to state that the actual and positive consumption of wheat, bullocks, saggina, beer, wine, and oil was attributable to the "prosperous condition" of the population as well as to its increase.

The statistics with regard to shipping were very interesting; 4,657 vessels entered the harbours of Malta during the year, 2,521 of which were steamers, and of these 2,521 no less than 2,224 were British. Altogether there was an increase on the number of steamers touching at Malta, and a practical proof was given that the late small rise on the port dues had had no injurious influence in driving away the shipping from the ports, and that the fears of certain persons with regard to the probabilities of such an injurious contingency taking place in consequence were groundless.

Much progress would have been made with the drainage and sewage works, to which the Imperial Government have now agreed to contribute in the proportion of three-sevenths Imperial to four-sevenths Island, but that a question of the incidence of taxation in Malta, and the possible substitution of direct taxes for all or for a portion of the present import duty on wheat, at 10*s.* a salm, producing a revenue of 50,000*l.* a year, or nearly one-third of the total revenues of Malta, has formed the subject of a local inquiry ordered by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and pending the result of such inquiry, the execution of these highly important works, as also other works of magnitude in contemplation, have been temporarily suspended.

Notwithstanding, however, the general temporary suspension of the execution of works of magnitude, 3,163*l.* was voted for the improved water supply of the sister Island of Gozo, whilst the larger amount proposed for Malta only has been deferred. The bi-weekly postal communication, viâ Italy, with the United Kingdom, has been again re-established, conferring by its re-establishment a great boon to the commercial, and indeed to all other classes of this community; and the reconstruction of the splendid building of the Theatre Royal is all but completed, so that there is every prospect of its being re-opened to the public on the 1st of October 1877.

The Island has been perfectly quiet during the year 1876.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To his Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

GRIQUALAND WEST.

GRIQUALAND WEST.

No. 13.

Governor SIR H. BARKLY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Cape Town,
January 25, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to send forward the Blue Book Report of this Province for the year 1875, which, owing to causes alluded to in the covering Despatch of the Administrator, has only just been completed.

2. It seems unnecessary for me to offer any remarks on the returns, as Major Lanyon has gone fully into all subjects of interest, and furnished information which even now will be found of great value, as showing the resources and capabilities of the country.

3. His narrative, too, of the political occurrences of the year, which culminated in the sending up of troops to vindicate the supremacy of the law, possesses the inestimable advantage of emanating from a thoroughly well informed yet perfectly unbiassed commentator, who only arrived on the scene when the struggle was over.

4. I am happy to think that when he is in a position to forward the Blue Book for 1876 it will give evidence, in spite of commercial depression, to considerable social and financial improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

ENCLOSURE in Despatch No. 11. January 25, 1877.

SIR,

Kimberley, December 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book Report for this Province for the year 1875.

I was only in the Province for six weeks during the year under review.

There being no Colonial Secretary to prepare a Report, I have been obliged to supervise it myself, and have only been able to do this at irregular times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. OWEN LANYON.

His Excellency Sir H. Barkly, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief.

REPORT for the Year 1875.

Legislation.

Ten Ordinances were passed during the year.

Ordinances 1 and 2, for raising respectively the sums of 20,000*l.* and 15,000*l.* for public works and surveys, have been disallowed.

Ordinance 3 of 1875, to establish a court to adjudicate on claims to land in the Province of Griqualand West. This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a court having jurisdiction in all cases of claims to land within the Province, and power to adjudicate thereon, subject in all cases to appeal. All judgments of court to be provisional for three months, during which time claimants may note appeals to the High Court with further right of appeal.

A. Stockenstrom, Esq., a barrister practising in Cape Colony, was appointed as judge of this court, and commenced to adjudicate on the various claims to land on October 28, 1875.

Ordinance No. 7 sanctions the purchase by the Government of the farm known as Voornitzigt, on which certain diamond mines are situate, for the sum of 100,000*l.*

Ordinance No. 9 of 1875.—"To abolish the right of appeal from "the High Court of Griqualand to Her Majesty's High Com- "missioner."

Formerly appeals from the High Court were made to the High Commissioner. This Ordinance provides that all appeals from the High Court shall be made direct to the Privy Council.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1875.—To confer certain powers on the Special Commissioner appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to "make inquiry into the state of the resources and financial affairs "of the Province of Griqualand West."

The object of this Ordinance was to facilitate the inquiry into the resources, taxation, management of crown lands, the numbers, salaries, and organisation of the civil service of the Province. It confers upon the Special Commissioner powers for summoning witnesses to give evidence and produce papers to examine and also impound the same if necessary, and also for demanding such returns as he may require. Lieut.-Colonel Crossman, R.E., was appointed as Her Majesty's Special Commissioner to carry out the inquiry, and he commenced his duties in November.

Finance.

The accounts for the year show a deficit of 15,826*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* The revenue amounted to 78,093*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenditure to 93,919*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* The amount of this deficit was advanced by the Standard Bank at a rate of interest of 12 per cent. per annum. The amounts received and remitted on account of Post Office money orders are not included in this account. I append a statement (Enclosure No. 1.) which was drawn up by the Special Commissioner whilst he was here showing the revenue and expenditure of the Province from the date of its becoming a British Possession.

GRIQUALAND WEST.

From this it will appear that, with the exception of the first year, 1872, there has been a large annual deficit, but this was to a great extent to be expected in a place which was suddenly reared in the wilderness, 500 miles from the nearest seaport, where the governing powers were thrown entirely on their own resources, and left to frame and form everything, whether of a civil, military, or municipal nature, without external aid.

It is true that the Cape Government at first rendered some assistance, but that was soon withdrawn.

It is but natural that there should have been a heavy expenditure, and that this should continue for some time to come, when we consider that public buildings have been and are now being erected and charged against current revenue. The whole province is almost unsurveyed, and in order to parcel it out into farms a very heavy expenditure has been and will continue to be incurred. Since my arrival I have been able to effect a reduction in the rate of interest payable on the overdraft to the bank. This debt amounted on the 31st December 1875 to 19,841*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*

In the month of July the Voornitzigt farm was purchased by the Government for 100,000*l.* Ordinance No. 7 of 1875 authorised this purchase.

By this the Kimberley township and the diamond mines of New Rush and De Beers became the property of the Government.

The statement (Enclosure 2.) shows how this account stood on 31st December.

Pensions.

The following pensions have been granted during the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The late Lieutenant-Governor -	- 200	0	0
The late Secretary to Government	- 395	5	0

Debt.

The overdraft at Standard Bank amounted on 31st December 1875 to 19,841*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*

In addition to the above a debt of 19,119*l.* was incurred through troops having to be brought up from Cape Town in May, in consequence of the disturbances in April. The Imperial Government has allowed the Province five years in which to pay off this debt at the rate of 4,000*l.* a year. This bears no interest.

A further sum of 29,242*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* is owed to the Cape Colony, but against this the Province has claims against that Government which have not yet been adjusted. The total debt therefore of the Province at the close of the year was 68,202*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*

Executive Council.

The following appointments were made in the Executive Council during the year:—

Major William Owen Lanyon, C.M.G., as Administrator, *vice* R. Southey, Esq., C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor, 17th November 1875.

Jacob Dirk Barry, Esq., Recorder, *vice* Mr. Currey, Secretary to Government, 30th December 1875.

Sidney Alexander Godolphin Shippard, M.A., B.C.L., Oxon, Attorney-General, 22nd March 1875.

Legislative Council.

The following appointments were made in the Legislative Council:—

Official.

Major William Owen Lanyon, C.M.G., as Administrator, 17th November 1875, *vice* Mr. Southey, C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor.

Jacob Dirk Barry, as Recorder (*vice* Secretary to Government), 30th December 1875.

Sidney G. A. Shippard, as Attorney-General, March 1875.

Jas. Perkins (provisional) (*vice* Secretary to Government), 2nd December 1875, resigned same month.

Elective Members.

Mr. F. Thompson, the member for Barkly, resigned his seat in September 1875.

The Council was dissolved on the 2nd December 1875.

Civil Establishment.

The office of Lieutenant-Governor was abolished from the 30th September 1875, and Mr. J. D. Barry the Recorder was appointed to act as Administrator until my arrival.

I arrived November 15th.

Colonial Secretariat.

The appointment of Secretary to Government was abolished on 30th September.

Audit Office.

The appointment of Auditor was held by the late Secretary to Government, and since the abolition of the latter appointment that of Auditor has not been filled.

Attorney-General's Office.

S. A. G. Shippard, M.A., B.C.L., Oxon, was appointed Attorney-General, *vice* J. C. Thompson, Esq., deceased.

In addition to the above many minor changes and appointments have been made.

Mines (Kimberley).

At the end of the year there were 413 claims in this mine, divided among 381 claim holders, and the claims were valued for rating purposes at 514,000*l.* The selling prices of the claims ranged between 20 to 50 per cent. above the assessment. The claims are each 31 English feet square.

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The following tables will show the number of claims at the different assessments:—

	£		
Number of claims assessed at	2,500	-	30
" "	2,000	-	79
" "	1,500	-	138
" "	1,000	-	26
" "	600	-	34
" "	500	-	10
" "	400	-	32
" "	200	-	49
Allotted after assessment not paying rates to Board			15
		Total -	413

From the returns in last year's blue book it would appear that there were 410 claims, divided among 1,183 claim holders, and valued for rating purposes at 474,000*l.* It will be seen, therefore, that while the number of claims has increased from 410 to 413, the number of claim holders has decreased from 1,183 to 381. This decrease is attributable to the fact that as the mines become deeper the expenses become so great as to render it unremunerative to work small portions of ground.

De Beers Mine.

The number of claims worked in this mine was 272, and the number of claim holders 146. The claims in this mine are not assessed for mining board rates, but pay at the rate of 2*l.* per full claim if under 30 feet in depth, and 3*l.* 12*s.* if over 30 feet.

Very little buying and selling took place in 1875, and the prices were almost only nominal in this mine.

Du Toits Pan.

The number of claims in this mine at the end of the year was 301½, and the number of claim holders was 105.

Bultfonteim.

The number of claims in this mine was 264¾, the number of claim holders being 125.

Agriculture.

Until within the last year or two, the lands of the Province have been solely utilized for pastoral purposes. The farmers confined themselves to growing just sufficient produce and bread stuffs for their own wants. Kimberley was dependent upon the neighbouring states for these supplies, which were, in some instances, brought from places 10 to 12 days' journey from here. Now the farmers in the neighbourhood are beginning to find out the pecuniary advantage of providing for this market, and consequently prices are beginning to come down.

Public Gardens.

These gardens were started in 1873 by Mr. Southey, the late Lieutenant-Governor, and at the time he was much cavilled at for doing so; the wisdom of his action has been proved by the fact that they are a great boon to this town and the Province generally. During the year there was a fair demand for trees, fruit, vegetables, and seeds, many species of useful trees have been imported, propagated, and distributed.

The success of the gardens is proved by the fact that they are now self-supporting.

Education.

Only one school in the Province was supported by Government grant (viz., the High School, Barkly). The amount granted was 125*l.* The number of pupils at this school at the end of the year was :—

Boarders - - - -	32
Day boys - - - -	21
Total - -	53

There are other schools in connexion with the various religious denominations, and also private schools, but no assistance was afforded these by Government in consequence of the low state of the finances, though provision was made in the estimates for certain grants to the several denominations.

I do not approve of a Government grant being given to any school or denomination without results being fairly tested by examination, and payment being made according to the result of such examination.

I trust before long Government will be in a position to grant sums for education in accordance with such a system.

Trade.

At the present time the chief product of the Province is diamonds. In certain parts, where farmers had settled and established themselves, before this became a British Possession, a certain amount of wool is produced, but the exports under this head cannot be fairly estimated.

As regards diamonds, however, a fair estimate can be given. During the year there was forwarded through the Post Office alone over 700 pounds weight (avoirdupois).

As only the better sort of diamonds are forwarded in this way, it is not, I am informed on very good authority, estimating the value of this too highly when I put it down at 1,400,000*l.* Of course this does not by any means represent the total amount of exports under this head.

Large amounts are sent home by shippers through private sources, and there is no doubt that very large quantities are clandestinely sent home by the illicit diamond buyers, whose name is "legion." The temptations and facilities to the workers

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in the mines to steal are very great, and although the penalties are very severe, both to the thief and the receiver, the large gains to be made are too tempting for any penalties to stop this demoralizing trade.

I do not think I am overstating the total value of the diamonds found in the Province during the year 1875 when I put it down at 2,500,000*l.*

The following short report will be interesting as showing the prices obtained during the year for diamonds. It is compiled by a gentleman here who is a large digger and exporter.

Report.

1875 has been the most prosperous year our digging community has ever experienced. Although prices were not perhaps quite as high as at the opening of these fields, good quality diamonds of ordinary size fetched nearly as much as ever they did, and very choice stones realized fancy prices. I have known a 2-carat stone fetch 20*l.*, and other small stones in proportion, but these were of course exceptions. The market gradually rose from the beginning of the year to the end of May, when it receded slightly, keeping, however, very firm till the end.

On reference to my register I find that in the month before the excessive rise I purchased 75 stones weighing 244 carats (nearly 3¼ carats average) at 105*s.* per carat, while in December I paid as much as 160*s.* for 16 diamonds weighing 51½ carats, a similar average, and as far as my memory serves me, of equal quality.

Ordinary diggers parcels, as found in washing and exclusive of pickings, which are generally of a more valuable description, may be estimated at 30*s.* per carat during the year, a load of good ground yielding equal to 1½ carats washed.

The average prices during the year were as follows:—

White and Cape white, perfect in shape and free from flaws.

ct.		ct.		*s.*		*s.*
½	to	1½	- - -	50	to	80
1½	„	2	- - -	80	„	100
2	„	3	- - -	100	„	145
3	„	4	- - -	145	„	170
4	„	5	- - -	170	„	210

Larger sizes varied considerably, 9 to 10 carat stones sold for about 15*l.* per carat.

First bye-water or slightly off-coloured would be one half the value of the above quotations.

Light yellow stones, but otherwise perfect:—

ct.		ct.		*s.*		*s.*
1	to	5	- - -	25	to	80
5	„	10	- - -	80	„	100
10	„	20	- - -	100	„	120
20	„	40	- - -	120	„	170
40	„	80	- - -	170	„	200

Dark yellow stones about 25 per cent. cheaper.

Cleavage varied according to quality and colour as follows:—

ct.	ct.				s.	s.
1 to	2	-	-	-	10 to	25
2 „	3	-	-	-	15 „	40
3 „	5	-	-	-	20 „	70
5 „	10	-	-	-	30 „	100

Large and choice, higher. Small cleavage and chips, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*

Boart 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*

The high price paid for superior goods is to some extent traceable to the competition caused by American orders to be executed in time for the Philadelphia Exhibition.

I may mention as useful for reference that a carat equals $3\frac{1}{5}$ grains troy.

The most common shape of the diamond when found is octohedron, but it assumes all shapes.

The imports of the Province are large, but it is impossible to give any reliable data as to their amount or value.

This being an inland Province there is no check in the shape of Customs dues which are levied, and not accounted for to this Government, by the States on the sea-board, but from returns and information which I have collected from various sources I think I am under-estimating the amount of our imports *from abroad* when I value them at 750,000*l.*

The imports from the neighbouring States, such as breadstuffs, corn, Cape wine and spirits, sugar, rum, fruit, cattle, &c. cannot be less than a like sum, making in all 1,500,000*l.*

Hospital.

The accommodation for this purpose is not, in my opinion, sufficient for the requirements of the place.

For white people the hospital consists of one ward 50 feet in length and 16 in breadth. There are 18 beds.

During the year 155 patients were treated in the hospital, of these 116 were cured and 18 died.

Taxation.

With regard to the amount levied by way of taxes, there is little doubt that the taxpayer of this Province is in a more favourable position than he would be elsewhere. When we consider the value of the diamonds exported is two millions and a half, and compare it with the cost of Government, viz., under 94,000*l.*, or $\frac{1}{27}$ of the exports, I think it will be allowed that the taxpayer has not much cause for complaint, and it must be borne in mind that the digger has exceptional advantages, in that the expense of sending his produce to market is infinitesimal.

One of the principal causes of grievance urged against the late Government was that the taxation was excessive. The fore-

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going will show the amount of value to be accorded to the complaint.

Labour.

Owing to the smallness of the police force the provisions of Proclamation No. 14 of 1872, for the registration of native servants, was not strictly enforced during the year 1875. The returns for Kimberley show that there were about 10,000 natives registered for service during the year, and those for Du Toits Pau show that 2,947 were registered; but these numbers are far short of the actual number of natives working here, and they only show those who contracted in this district for working in the mines, as there is no system of registration at the river diggings, or elsewhere.

The majority of these natives come from the Mahowa, Basuto, and Soshangaan tribes, but there are also natives from the Malakala, Zulu, Bechuana, and Batlapin tribes. Some of these natives come from the Zambesi, a journey which usually occupies about three months.

The fee for the registration of these natives is 1*s*.

No great difficulty has, as a rule, been experienced in obtaining native servants; but a great difficulty and source of complaint amongst the masters has been, that after paying the registration fee, the servants will often desert from their service in the hope of obtaining higher wages elsewhere.

The Province is entirely dependent upon external sources for its labour.

In order that some estimate may be made of the enormous price of labour which obtained during the year on these fields, I append the following table:—

Carpenters, 20*s*. to 50*s*. per day.
Masons, 20*s*. to 40*s*. per day.
Blacksmith, 20*s*. to 40*s*. per day.
Cook, 8*l*. to 15*l*. a month, with board and lodging.
Waiter, 8*l*. to 12*l*. a month, with board and lodging.
Native house servants, 5*l*. to 10*l*. per month, with board and lodging.
Raw native working in claims, 10*s*. to 20*s*. per week, with board and lodging.
Policeman, 10*s*. per week, with board and lodging.

Land.

One of the greatest difficulties with which the Government in Griqualand West has, since its first establishment, had to contend, has been what is commonly called the "land question," that is, the settlement of or adjudication upon claims set up by private persons to lands within the Province, sometimes of enormous extent, and conflicting to such a degree that there have been sometimes as many as three or even five claimants for the same land, with alleged titles derived from as many different sources.

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Sir Henry Barkly's Proclamation, No. 72 of 1871, commonly called the "quieting Proclamation," set in some respects the question at rest, as far as it concerned titles derived from the Free State Government previous to the 1st of January 1870, but as such titles only existed for lands in the district of Kimberley (formerly Pinel) and part of the district of Hay (formerly Griquatown), it left the disputes concerning lands in other portions of the Province as troublesome as ever, and the anticipated increase in the value of land consequent upon the influx of population to the diamond fields, stimulated many persons to engage in land speculations often of a very questionable character, but which they nevertheless prosecuted with such zeal, and concerning which they, by letters in the newspapers, kept up so much agitation, branding each other and even the officers of Government as "land swindlers," that it was found impossible to come to anything like an equitable adjustment by any other means than the establishment of a special court of justice. Such a tribunal called the "Land Court" was created by Ordinance No. 3 of 1875, with power to adjudicate upon all claims to land. This court, although its decisions have caused much cavil, has at least had the effect of wiping out a very large number of claims which had no just foundation, and thus leaving a considerable amount of Crown land at the disposal of the Provincial Government.

What the exact acreage of these lands may be it is at present difficult to estimate, as it is well known that every recipient of a judgment of the Land Court founded on a Free State title claims under that title about double the quantity of land which such title purports to convey, and it is as yet uncertain what effect the confirmation of such titles must be interpreted to have in law, equity, or policy.

Add to this the facts that the right of the original native occupiers of the country, whether settled or "nomadic," must in justice be regarded and equitably dealt with, although such rights never became matter for adjudication before the Land Court, the people being too ignorant to understand its operation, or having no such actual ownership as could be dealt with by a court of law, and that consequently the executive is per force constrained to decide upon such claims before the actual acreage of disposable Crown lands can be ascertained, it is plain that the "land question" is still a question fraught with difficulty. The Surveyor-General estimates the whole area of the Province at 17,800 square miles, equal to 1,780 farms of the average extent of 3,000 margen (or 6,350 English Imperial acres). This officer is of opinion that, after satisfying all the judgments of the Land Court, as well as providing for the requirements of natives not entitled to grants of farms, there will still remain as available Crown lands about 900 farms averaging as above 3,000 margen; and that from a hut tax or other similar impost levied upon the natives themselves there will be derivable a revenue quite equal to the rent obtainable from 400 or 500 more farms.

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The land revenue to be raised in the Province hereafter:—First, from the quitrents of confirmed grants made by the Free State; second, from rents levied upon other grants ordered by the Land Court; and thirdly, from taxes levied upon native locations, is expected to form a very considerable addition to that now received, and which is raised almost exclusively from taxes (stamps, licenses, &c.) paid by the inhabitants of the mining centres, Kimberley, Old De Beers, Bult Fontein, and Du Toitspan.

It is matter for regret that all the questions relating to land can not be speedily settled, and that the broad acres of the Province have hitherto, and must for some time to come, remain in a great degree unproductive, either of material wealth to the community or of revenue to its treasury.

But it has been found very difficult to obtain the services of competent and trustworthy surveyors to carry on and complete the survey of the Province, and it is only by means of a complete survey that the end in view can be obtained.

The surveys already completed embrace about 250 farms, averaging 3,000 margen, and about an equal extent now under survey is approaching completion.

During the year under report there have been only three surveyors employed, but I am glad to say that at the present time (November 1876) there are seven actually at work, and one or two more expected shortly to join the Surveyor-General's staff; so that this most indispensable work is in a fair way towards completion. The surveys are all founded upon, and connected with, a primary triangulation, which has been completed along all that portion of the Province adjoining the Orange Free State, and abcut 100 miles of the Cape Colonial Boundary; and it is hoped that this triangulation, which is being energetically prosecuted under the able superintendence of Mr. Orpen, the Surveyor-General, will in this Province prevent the enormous expense and interminable litigation which in the Cape Colony and in the Free State has already been caused by isolated and erroneous surveys of individual farms.

Crime.

It is almost impossible to give any returns under this heading, the population being so nomadic and fluctuating. Statistics would be useless under such circumstances. I may mention, however, that the Resident Magistrate of Kimberley (in whose district four-fifths of the population live) reports that crime had not increased during the year. 4,424 criminal cases were disposed of by him, but he mentions that "the small number of policemen "available for duty (for a long time only 10 or 12) has precluded "such complete supervision of the camp as would have been de- "sirable. At times there are many drunken and disorderly "scenes in the camp, especially on Sunday, but this is attributable "mainly to the enormous number of canteens about the outskirts

" of the town, there being at one period of the year no fewer " than 130 licensed dealers in liquor." GRIQUALAND WEST.

Drunkenness and illicit diamond buying are the curses of the place.

Public Health.

The medical inspector reports that " the deaths during the year " chiefly resulted from pneumonia, fever, bronchitis, diarrhœa, " and dysentery. The diseases mentioned are caused by the " variableness of the climate, the changes from great heat to cold, " and by the fact that the miners and their families (who form a " large portion of the population of the district) are indifferently " housed." During the year there was a great mortality amongst infants and natives.

General Remarks.

The year under report is the fourth after the declaration that Her Majesty had been pleased to extend British rule over these territories. It has been one of great moment to the Province. During the early part of the year considerable dissatisfaction existed amongst the diggers, and mass meetings were held, at which language was used against the Government which was wholly improper. Charges were freely made against the Lieut.-Governor and many of his officials, charges which I may add were afterwards investigated by a Special Commissioner from England, and proved to be groundless.

In a community like this, composed of men suddenly thrown together in a spot remote from any of the centres of civilization, it is well nigh impossible for any form of government at first to be successful, or to rule satisfactorily.

The history of diggings serves to show that everywhere lawlessness prevailed during the early days, unless the Government was backed up by a force strong enough to enforce law and order.

Unfortunately this element of physical force was wanting here. The police force was too weak to be of any use to this end, and that moral support which a government has a right to expect, and which is to be found in older and better established communities, was wanting.

And so matters quickly got worse. Agitation brought about disaffection, until finally a " Diggers Protection Association " was formed, under which men were enrolled and armed in open opposition to the Government.

On the 12th April came the crisis, when the associationists turned out, with loaded arms, in front of the gaol to oppose the carrying out of a magisterial sentence. Happily matters were settled at the time by a compromise, for the Government had only a mere handful of police, together with a few civil servants and other gentlemen present to uphold the enforcement of the committal.

GRIQUALAND WEST.

These would have had little chance against such large odds had a struggle taken place. I think there are few now who were concerned in this affair who can look back on the events of that day with satisfaction.

The result of this demonstration was the sending up of troops and the trial of the leaders of the armed party, three of whom pleaded guilty, and the others, the most violent of all, were acquitted by the jury!

The bringing up of the troops, thus necessitated, has saddled the Province with a debt of 20,000*l.*

In June Sir H. Barkly, the Governor-in-Chief, came up, by whom changes were made, and a conciliatory action adopted. Angry passions were allayed, and conflicting interests, as far as could be, were reconciled. And so ended this lamentable episode in the history of the Province. A better feeling now pervades the community, and I heartily trust and think it is permanent.

I firmly believe that many, if not the majority, of those implicated now deeply regret the part they took in it, and to which they were led on by agitators who had no interest at stake in the Province.

(Signed) W. OWEN LANYON.
Administrator.

Enclosure No. 1.

RETURN, showing Total Amount of Sums received and Sums expended by the Government at the Diamond Fields, Griqualand West, from the establishment of the British Rule on the 17th November 1871 to 31st December 1875.

Heads of Receipt.	1870 and 1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	Total, 1872–75.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Registration certificates, diggers' licenses	In 1870 and 1871 the revenue of the Province was 4,608*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*	17,308 11 6	14,702 5 0	13,308 5 0	11,807 10 0	57,126 12 3
Transfer do., claims		- - -	- - -	2,267 0 0	4,356 15 0	6,623 15 0
Hypothecation do.		- - -	- - -	147 0 0	278 5 0	425 5 0
Miners' do.		- - -	- - -	1,040 15 0	1,144 10 0	2,185 5 0
Sales, forfeited claims		- - -	668 9 8	228 12 3	572 14 0	1,469 15 11
Do., new mining claims and debris		- - -	- - -	- - -	2,369 11 4	2,369 11 4
Abandoned soil licenses		- - -	- - -	135 0 0	589 3 0	724 3 0
Debris tickets		- - -	- - -	- - -	179 17 0	179 17 0
Transfer duty		316 19 11	86 0 0	235 15 3	235 16 8	874 11 10
Land Revenue		408 0 10	518 17 10	388 11 10	1,696 10 0	3,012 0 6
Do. sales		2,213 18 11	29 6 0	- - -	158 0 0	2,401 4 11
Rents, excluding land (market dues)		4,457 0 11	3,445 7 8	1,978 18 8	1,595 5 11	11,476 13 2
Judicial fines		1,878 16 2	3,813 1 9	2,806 5 4	2,228 12 2	10,726 15 5
Do. fees		684 10 3	630 17 7	784 7 6	560 16 5	2,660 11 9
Stamped licenses (shops, canteens)		19,087 17 11	14,797 17 0	16,502 11 7	23,567 17 10	73,956 4 4
Blank stamps		- - -	14,249 3 8	8,011 7 6	13,950 13 11	36,211 5 1
Auction duty		2,154 6 3	3,237 4 7	2,379 6 5	1,928 2 10	9,699 0 1
Fees of Office		257 11 11	653 16 5	772 0 11	799 3 3	2,482 12 6
Do., Native Registry Office		1,281 17 0	3,156 13 0	2,674 14 0	1,533 13 0	8,646 17 0
Postage		5,156 9 3	5,015 7 8	4,655 2 7	4,883 5 11	19,710 5 5
Private letter boxes		- - -	- - -	61 0 0	- - -	61 0 0
Postal fines		- - -	- - -	123 10 0	470 9 3	593 19 3
Pound sales and pound fees		2,415 4 4	1,451 19 2	607 11 5	341 12 5	4,816 7 4
Hospital tax		- - -	- - -	94 13 0	1,345 2 0	1,439 15 0
Sums refunded		646 16 10	337 3 10	1,348 8 11	98 2 11	2,430 12 6
Sale of Government stores		13 0 0	6 0 0	187 13 6	293 17 6	500 11 0
Special receipts		- - -	40 2 6	- - -	50 0 0	90 2 6
Tolls and ferries		206 19 9	- - -	- - -	- - -	206 19 9
Miscellaneous receipts		191 14 9	133 11 6	228 10 9	1,058 7 11	1,612 4 11
		58,679 17 6	66,973 5 7	60,967 1 5	78,093 15 3	264,713 19 9
Paid by Cape Colony	3,899 1 9	6,832 9 5	5,840 19 5	2,001 4 4	400 0 0	15,074 13 2
Post Office money orders cashed by Cape Colony	- - -	1,772 8 7	5,072 16 2	8,394 4 0	11,670 5 3	26,909 14 0
		67,284 15 6	77,887 1 2	71,362 9 9	90,164 0 6	306,698 6 11
		Total for the years 1870 and 1871 -				8,507 9 6
						315,205 16 5

Enclosure No. 1—*continued.*

Particulars of Expenditure.	1870 and 1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	Total, 1872-75.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments -	In 1870 and 1871 the expenditure of the Province was Paid by Cape Colony	15,424 10 6	25,462 6 0	32,631 0 3	37,742 18 1	111,260 14 10
Office contingencies		2,215 2 4	2,466 17 4	2,563 15 11	2,756 19 0	10,002 14 7
Council expenses -		- - -	135 12 0	730 3 0	35 5 6	901 0 6
Administration of justice - - -		896 6 11	812 18 3	1,553 19 0	2,696 10 6	5,959 14 8
Gaols - - -		5,092 15 5	8,549 7 2	9,011 5 0	5,447 6 5	28,100 14 0
Gaol hospital - -		1,462 12 1	828 10 4	974 9 9	479 13 6	3,745 5 8
Police - - -		6,612 10 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,612 10 6
Griqualand armed constabulary -		- - -	5,425 8 10	8,902 19 0	6,482 11 0	20,810 18 10
Do. mounted police	£ s. d. - 3,786 5 0 - 3,899 1 9 = 7,685 6 9	- - -	1,581 4 5	2,740 15 0	3,084 15 11	7,406 15 4
Revenue services -		- - -	565 8 0	95 6 4	338 3 6	998 17 10
Works and buildings - - -		5,317 0 8	4,111 10 5	6,007 11 5	5,671 6 9	21,107 9 3
Rent - - -		1,302 1 4	763 7 0	1,267 14 3	1,637 19 8	4,971 2 3
Surveys - - -		705 9 5	1,361 5 9	4,145 11 8	5,354 16 1	11,567 2 11
Do., geological -		- - -	- - -	698 0 0	678 0 0	1,376 0 0
Conveyance of mails		1,862 16 2	5,191 8 8	4,384 8 0	3,951 8 11	15,390 1 9
Aborigines - -		38 17 0	107 6 8	2,035 2 1	948 18 8	3,130 4 5
Public hospitals -		750 0 0	768 2 8	3,191 17 3	3,051 16 8	7,761 16 7
Do. gardens - -		- - -	500 0 0	289 1 3	111 17 6	900 18 9
Education - -		- - -	- - -	304 0 0	- - -	304 0 0
Interest on overdraft at bank, and commission on bills of exchange		- - -	- - -	828 17 8	2,616 17 0	3,445 14 8
Sums refunded on account of mines		7,472 2 0	7,962 6 6	2,482 8 0	- - -	17,916 16 6
Miscellaneous refunds - - -		1,025 8 4	379 15 4	1,542 7 8	2,404 14 7	5,352 5 11
Transport - -		736 9 4	461 16 10	666 18 1	1,107 3 4	2,972 7 7
Travelling expenses		2,455 12 10	1,488 11 3	875 2 0	1,546 19 6	6,366 5 7
Special services -		62 10 0	1,094 11 11	144 19 0	379 1 0	1,699 1 11
Pensions - - -		7 9 10	19 16 8	- - -	33 6 8	60 13 2
Special payments -		- - -	- - -	- - -	1,284 1 9	1,248 1 9
Field force - -		- - -	- - -	- - -	22 15 0	22 15 0
Miscellaneous services - - -		1,543 17 3	1,123 16 5	838 1 8	1,210 11 4	4,716 6 8
Ocean postage -		- - -	- - -	2,001 4 4	1,075 12 4	3,076 16 8
Paid to Crown agents - - -		- - -	- - -	500 0 0	1,500 0 0	2,000 0 0
Advances made during 1875, and not brought to account		- - -	- - -	- - -	250 9 5	250 9 5
		54,983 11 11	71,161 8 5	91,406 17 7	93,919 19 7	311,471 17 6
	250 0 0	8,095 10 11	4 9 3	882 13 8	7,408 10 7	16,391 4 5
		63,079 2 10	71,165 17 8	92,289 11 3	101,328 10 2	327,863 1 11
					Total for years 1870 and 1871 -	7,935 6 9
						335,798 8 8

Enclosure No. 2.

VOORNITZIGT ESTATE.

Revenue.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Stand licenses - -	1,246	12	9
Well do. - -	556	9	8
Dams - - -	308	5	3
Homestead grazing -	106	1	9
Grazing - - -	64	19	6
Hut licenses - -	10	18	6
	2,293	7	5
Amount recovered on capitalization of stands -	10,680	17	0
	£12,974	4	5

Expenditure.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries - - -	894	10	5
Gratuities on abolition of office - - -	220	3	4
Miscellaneous - -	250	15	9
Works and buildings -	202	13	4
Police and gaol (tools for convicts) - -	39	13	0
Survey expenses - -	105	2	6
Law costs - -	600	0	0
Auctioneer's commission -	11	10	9
	2,324	9	1
On account of purchase amount of Voornitzigt -	5,000	0	0
Interest on purchase amount - - -	3,000	0	0
	£10,324	9	1

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 14.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, St. Helena, March 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1876; the returns being nearly similar to those of the preceding year.

2. The revenue amounts to 13,167*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, exceeding the estimate by 167*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* An alteration was made during 1876 in the postal arrangements, which caused a decrease in the revenue from that source, the whole of the postage on letters, &c. conveyed by mail packets from 1st July last being appropriated by the London office for payment of the mail subsidy. The loss, however, under this head has been made up by a small increase in the customs wharfage receipts arising from the number of vessels discharging for repairs.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
3. The expenditure (exclusive of 750*l.* for redemption of debentures) was - - -	12,579	9	11
against an estimate for - - -	13,357	17	8
	778	7	9

This saving was effected principally in the office of Chief Justice, the duties of which are now performed by the Governor without salary, under the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council dated 5th April 1852.

4. As compared with the revenue, there is a saving of 587*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* towards the reduction of the debt.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue - - -	13,167	8	4
Expenditure - - -	12,579	9	11
	587	18	5

5. The imports amount to 49,500*l.*, and the exports to 7,864*l.* Under the latter head it would seem that during the last three years a falling off had occurred as compared with former years, in which the returns of Exports show on an average more than 25,000*l.* per annum. In reality the exports of this year exceed those of any former years; the larger sum assigned to those years being made up by the value of goods landed and reshipped, whilst during the last three years the returns have been limited to the value of exports strictly so called.

6. The Island in fact possesses no export trade of its own beyond a small quantity of wool, hides, guano, fibre prepared from

the New Zealand flax, and oil taken by whalers belonging to the Island. All other produce is consumed on the spot or sold to the shipping calling for supplies. The exports of last year included 110 bales of fibre prepared from flax grown in the Island, and I am informed that the Flax and Fibre Company are making arrangements for a further enlargement of their machinery in the ensuing year.

7. The oil exported amounted to 408 casks, valued at 5,600*l.*, taken by a whaler belonging to the Island, and shipped to the London market. Until last year the whole of this fishery has been monopolised by vessels belonging to the United States.

8. The number of vessels calling for supplies was 582, including 16 vessels of war. Those landing cargo are entered as 87, but the majority of these vessels landed only small proportions of their cargo.

9. The public debt due on debentures is reduced to 13,750*l.* During the last three years the current expenditure has been carefully kept within the revenue, and the liabilities have been reduced 1,365*l.* in that period by the small surplus accruing at the end of each year. The large pension list prevents for the present a more rapid reduction of the debt, but that list (as I have previously pointed out) must itself undergo a large reduction within a very few years from natural causes.

10. In the various public schools there are 1,178 pupils receiving instruction. I attended the annual examinations of those belonging to the Hussey Charity and Benevolent Society as well as the Government schools. The children were all of them neat and cleanly in their appearance, and exhibited a satisfactory progress in their education which reflected credit upon their teachers.

11. The criminal returns show an increase in the number of summary convictions before the magistrates, chiefly from the larger number of seamen charged with refusal of duty under the Mercantile Marine Act; out of 390 convictions, 159 were against seamen. But there has been the same satisfactory absence as heretofore of all serious crime. With a single exception (an African found guilty of a criminal assault), there has been no conviction whatever for indictable offences in the higher court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 15.

Governor Sir ARTHUR PHAYRE, K.C.S.I., C.B., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Mauritius, November 6, 1876.

I HAVE the honor to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1875, together with my Report thereon.

A Report on the Seychelles Islands, dated the 24th February from the Chief Civil Commissioner of that Dependency is also submitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. P. PHAYRE.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1875.

Taxation.

1. The changes in taxation during the year have been as follows :—

2. In taxes on vehicles the amount payable on traction engines used on public roads was raised from 6*l.* to 25*l.* per annum.

3. A license duty on careening hulks established in the harbour of Port Louis has been imposed, amounting to 60*l.* or to 100*l.* per annum, according to the position in which the hulk is placed.

4. An increase of 20 per cent. was made on the existing charge for the port steamers when engaged in tugging vessels.

5. Special taxes which had heretofore been levied for the Poor Relief Fund, and additional duties of Customs which had been levied upon some articles for maintaining hospitals and dispensaries, were abolished. In the revised tariff of duties in some cases an increase and in some a decrease was established, but not more than was necessary to avoid inconvenient fractions. The rates remained essentially as before.

6. A slight increase was made to the amount of duty payable on patents.

7. The amount payable on a distiller's license was reduced from 400*l.* to 100*l.* The payment of drawback on exportation of rum at the same time was abolished. The effect on the licensee remained about the same as before.

Receipts and Expenditure.

8. The following table exhibits the receipts for the two past years, omitting fractions, and also the average for the 10 years ending December 31st, 1873 :—

Heads of Service.	Average of 10 years ending 31st December 1873.	1874.	1875.
	£	£	£
1. Customs - - -	205,530	222,352	235,987
2. Harbour dues - - -	23,075	26,666	21,159
3. Land sales - - -	7,957	1,156	802
4. Land revenue - - -	4,104	2,658	4,969
5. Rents, exclusive of land -	279	630	2,213
6. Transfer, registration, and mortgage dues.	25,496	22,058	19,631
7. Licenses and permits - -	169,309	199,173	192,213
8. Stamps - - -	9,181	11,497	11,413
9. Taxes - - -	14,182	13,864	14,329
10. Postage - - -	5,776	5,206	5,057
11. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court.	14,797	14,402	12,823
12. Fees of office - - -	8,355	5,887	5,729
13. Forests - - -	—	—	—
14. Sale of Government property -	1,312	3,425	2,023
15. Reimbursements - -	24,112	15,876	12,562
16. Miscellaneous receipts -	2,740	21,475	9,895
17. Interest - - -	22,476	25,217	23,374
18. Special receipts - -	250	272	365
19. Boards of Health - -	—	498	—
20. Railway traffic - -	82,154	128,333	118,349
	621,085	720,645	692,893

9. The above figures exclude the revenue of the Seychelles Islands, which was included with that of Mauritius until the end of 1873.

10. In Customs there is an apparent increase of 13,635*l.* during 1875. But the sum of 222,352*l.* for 1874 includes only the amount of collections for Customs duty credited to the Customs Department. In addition to that the sum of 45,548*l.* was collected, by a surcharge of duty, for sanitary and poor law purposes. In 1875 the collections on those accounts at the same rates of duty as were imposed in 1874 have been included in the general revenue, and therefore in the sum of 235,987*l.*, the diminution in Customs was chiefly on imports, and amounted to 30,000*l.* The loss is attributable to two unfavourable seasons which affected all transactions.

11. In harbour dues there has been a decrease consequent on the general decline of trade during the year. In round numbers the tonnage of ships entering and clearing was 57,000 tons less in 1875.

12. In land sales, land rent, and rent of buildings there was an increase. This resulted chiefly from the collection of arrears due for past years. A decrease in registration and mortgage

MAURITIUS.

dues arose principally from diminution in transactions relative to immovables and also in fines. In licenses and permits the loss was much greater than appears. The amount for 1874 does not include the sum of 16,506*l.* collected for the Sanitary and Poor Law Funds of that year, that for 1875 contains all collected. The real decrease between the two years was over 23,000*l.* The loss, however, was not so disastrous as appears at first sight. There was an increase in licenses for trades and for hawkers, and the loss resulted chiefly on rum issued for home consumption. The decrease on the quantity of rum so issued was the result like every other diminution of the short sugar crop of the year.

13. In the item of reimbursements there was a net diminution to the extent of 3,314*l.* This arose from less amount being received on various items of advance or of expected return on outlay than occurred in the previous year.

14. The apparent decrease under the head miscellaneous is chiefly from the sum of 11,000*l.*, revenue of the Board of Health for the year 1874, having been transferred to that head during that year. There could be no such item of income in 1875, as has already been explained.

15. In the receipts from railway there was a decrease of 9,984*l.* There was a diminution in the number of passengers of the three classes, and in the quantity of sugar and general merchandize carried.*

16. The unfavourable result of the revenue of 1875 has one prevading and sufficient cause, namely, injury to the sugar canes. This existed during two years, from the hurricane of 1874, and from the want of rain during the early part of 1875. This injury to the great product of the Island depressed every industry. The net loss on the revenue of 1875 as compared with the previous year was 27,752*l.*

17. The expenditure in 1875 shows a large apparent increase over that of the previous year, and it also exceeds the revenue of the year.

18. The expenditure for the two last years and for the 10 years previously is shown in the following table, fractions and all Seychelles expenditure being omitted :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Average for 10 years ending 31st December 1873.	1874.	1875.
	£	£	£
1. Establishment fixed and temporary, with allowances - - -	235,051	228,864	225,839
2. Pensions - - - -	14,614	14,140	14,029
3. Revenue services - - -	9,117	9,160	12,419

* The sum of 118,349*l.* for railway traffic in 1875 includes a balance of 2,425*l.* for 1874, paid into the Treasury in 1875. This is not shown in the accounts by the Railway Department.

Heads of Expenditure.	Average for 10 years ending 31st December 1873.	1874.	1875.
	£	£	£
4. Administration of justice - -	7,894	11,752	11,207
5. Ecclesiastical - - -	2,314	3,040	2,727
6. Charitable allowances - -	103	401	117
7. Education - - - -	5,822	5,764	6,595
8. Hospitals - - - -	9,949	10,783	8,506
9. Police and gaols - - -	5,909	7,604	8,055
10. Rent - - - -	5,490	6,610	6,427
11. Transport - - - -	2,397	1,952	6,523
12. Mails - - - -	19,121	5,419	5,437
13. Works and buildings - -	20,152	19,010	18,375
14. Roads and bridges - - -	18,150	12,977	18,457
15. Miscellaneous services - -	10,983	50,192	89,783
16. Interest - - - -	13,774	20,222	24,487
17. Civil stores - - -	32,799	33,107	24,335
18. Military contribution - -	34,200	20,653	20,289
19. Quays, &c. - - - -	10,373	16,889	14,044
20. Immigration - - -	16,453	8,810	4,210
21. Drawback and refund of duties -	5,263	7,802	6,824
22. Quarantine - - - -	472	1,216	785
23. Debenture debt - - -	79,355	81,649	81,388
24. Railway working department -	67,978	126,648	93,144
25. General Board of Health - -	—	22,398	42,510
26. Poor Law Department - -	—	—	29,324
	627,733	727,062	775,836

19. The increase in expenditure is only apparent. It results principally from several large sums advanced in former years on various accounts having been charged to the head miscellaneous during 1875. The aggregate of those sums amounted to 67,495*l.* Another item in which the increase of expenditure is only apparent is that of transport. This apparent increase is a necessary result of the Railway Department having in 1875 been, for the first time, credited with the value of transport work on account of Government departments. The above sums, with the large items of expenditure for the General Board of Health and for the Poor Law Department, now shown in full in the expenditure of the Colony for the first time, being deducted, the expenditure for 1875 will be found to be considerably below that of 1874. It also does not much exceed the average of the expenditure for 10 years ending with 1873.

20. In the accounts of the Railway Department there appears an excess of expenditure amounting to 3,743*l.* above what is shown here. This arises from a difference in the method of showing expenditure in the Railway and in the Account Department. The difference will cease after 1876.

Local Revenues.

21. The revenue and expenditure of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis during 1875 were respectively 42,068*l.* and

MAURITIUS.

39,790*l.* These figures require no remark, as the averages for the past five years have been 41,958*l.* and 38,678*l.*

22. The debt of the corporation is 133,088*l.*, equal to about three and a half years' revenue. No new loans have been contracted since 1871. A little over 5,000*l.* only of the debt then existing has since been paid off. During the year 620*l.* of debentures not yet due were bought up. A sum of 6,940*l.* appears as a sinking fund, destined to pay off the first instalment of 8,080*l.*, which falls due in 1881. A small surplus will be available for the next instalment due in 1884, but that instalment and those falling in during the following five years amount to nearly 122,000*l.* Great care and economy will be required to meet these engagements.

23. There is no longer any separate revenue collected on account of Boards of Health or the Poor Law Commission. These bodies are supplied with funds from the general revenue, like other Departments.

Assets and Liabilities.

24. The Treasury assets in excess of liabilities appeared at the end of 1875 to be 21,637*l.* At the end of 1874 the apparent excess of assets was no less than 150,245*l.* This sum has been reduced by striking out a sum of 60,596*l.*, which figured as due to Government by the General and Local Boards of Health and by the Poor Law Commission. As the separate revenue which these corporations had hitherto received was taken away, Government had to write off the advances made to them.

25. A sum of 2,236*l.* was likewise transferred from assets to the credit of savings bank, to replace losses sustained on loans effected of savings bank funds.

26. A further sum of 4,812*l.* was struck out by the Council of Government, being for debts to Government considered irrecoverable.

27. A sum of 57,891*l.*, appearing as an asset in the statement of 31st December 1874 under the heading of "Railway Con- "struction Account," has also been struck out, as the Railway Construction Account has been closed.

28. The estimated value of the surplus land and buildings purchased for the railway, viz. 13,000*l.*, has been inserted in its place; this being the only amount likely to be recovered on this account. A favourable opportunity has not yet presented itself of disposing of these lands.

29. The apparent balance at the end of 1875 of 21,637*l.* ought to be still further reduced by striking out an advance of 2,015*l.* made to the Police Reward Fund. This amount is irrecoverable. The sum of 3,659*l.*, advanced to the Treasury of the Seychelles for roads, previous to the financial separation of that Dependency from Mauritius, will also have to be written off.

30. The true assets on 31st December last may therefore be set down at 16,000*l.*

Military Expenditure.

31. The contribution towards military expenditure for the year amounted to 20,289*l.* The number of troops in the Colony during the last month of the year was:—

Staff, including officers and medical department -	25
Artillery, officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners - - - - -	76
Infantry, officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates - - - - -	288
Total - -	389

Establishments.

32. The following statement shows the expenditure for the 10 years ending 1875:—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Totals.
	£	£	£
1866 - -	222,456	34,722	275,178
1867 - -	215,762	28,607	244,349
1868 - -	211,627	28,505	240,132
1869 - -	208,883	25,721	234,604
1870 - -	206,365	28,207	234,572
1871 - -	208,039	27,903	235,942
1872 - -	205,144	24,603	229,747
1873 - -	204,981	23,611	228,592
1874 - -	204,750	24,114	228,864
1875 - -	202,945	22,894	225,839

33. The annual cost of establishments is being gradually reduced.

Criminal Justice.

34. The Procureur-General, in submitting his report upon crime, observes that violations of the law are annually increasing. But the great increase is in laws relating to health, labour, and other minor offences.

35. The number of offences of all kinds reported during 1875 was 44,244.

36. The number of persons brought before the criminal courts during the year was:—

Supreme Court - - - -	95
District Court - - - -	22,701
Stipendiary Court - - -	12,911
	35,707

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37. The following table shows the number of persons brought before the several courts having criminal jurisdiction during the years—

1873.	1874.	1875.
28,641	32,877	35,707

38. The races of those persons charged, and the nature of the offences tried, before the Supreme Court will be seen from the following statement:—

Offences.	Indians.	Africans.	Chinese.	Arabs.	Whites and Coloured People of French and English Extraction.	Total.
Murder	8	1	—	—	—	9
Manslaughter	4	—	—	—	—	4
Concealment of birth	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rape	1	—	—	—	—	1
Unnatural crimes	2	—	—	1	—	3
Other offences against the person	20	6	—	—	4	30
Malicious injury to property	3	—	—	—	—	3
Robbery with violence	12	11	—	—	—	23
Other offences against property	2	3	—	—	4	9
Miscellaneous offences	6	4	1	—	1	12
	58	26	1	1	9	95

39. The following shows the number of persons convicted and acquitted at the assizes for three years:—

	1873.	1874.	1875.
Convicted	71	92	88
Acquitted	19	18	6
Total	90	110	94

40. The following table shows the number of persons tried in district courts, and the result, during three years:—

	1873.	1874.	1875.
No. of convictions	9,561	13,787	14,585
No. of acquittals	9,156	6,969	8,116
Total	18,717	20,756	22,701

41. The crimes of which persons convicted in the district courts were found guilty were :—

Years.	Assaults, &c.	Malicious Injury to Property.	Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences gainst Property.	Offences against the Law relating to Revenue, Highway, Health, and other Laws relating to the Social Economy of the Colony.	Other Offences.	Total.
1873 -	940	6	298	725	3,882	3,710	9,561
1874 -	1,224	115	298	1,477	7,014	3,659	13,787
1875 -	1,023	31	436	1,096	10,168	1,831	14,585

42. The great increase in the crime of prædial larceny is attributed to the number of persons thrown out of employment in consequence of the general depression in trade and agriculture.

43. The Stipendiary Courts try all cases relating to wages and contraventions of the labour laws. The following statement shows the nature of the cases brought before these courts during 1875, and other particulars pertaining thereto :—

Offences charged.	Number of Persons, and how Disposed of.			
	Acquitted and Discharged.		Convicted.	Total Persons.
	From want of Evidence.	On Merits.		
1. Assault - -	151	146	104	401
2. Non-payment of wages	626	453	1,606	2,685
3. Non-delivery of rations	212	74	43	329
4. Infraction of law on hospitals.	8	29	1	38
5. Neglect of work -	231	115	1,061	1,407
6. Unlawful absence -	702	79	2,942	3,723
7. Desertion and vagrancy	287	149	1 802	2,238
8. Other offences -	364	231	1,497	2,092
Total -	2,581	1,276	9,056	12,913

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Trade.

44. The value of imports and exports of Mauritius and its dependencies for 1875, and for the previous year, omitting fractions, was as follows:—

	1875.	1874.*	In 1875.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Imports.	£	£	£	£
Merchandise - -	1,820,906	2,514,791	—	693,885
Specie - - -	373,918	156,318	217,600	—
Exports.				
Merchandise - -	2,286,456	2,697,295	—	410,839
Specie - - -	235,643	323,127	—	87,484
Grand totals -	4,716,923	5,691,531	217,600	1,192,208

* As corrected since the last report was framed. Net decrease in 1875 = 974,608*l.*

45. In addition to the above-mentioned export of specie which appears in the Customs' statements for 1875, Indian immigrants returning to their country carried specie to the value of 30,276*l.*

46. The following statement shows the quantity and value of sugar being home produce exported for the last four years:—

Years.	Tons.	Value.*	Rate per Cwt.	Note.
		£	£ s. d.	
1872 - -	122,288	2,817,221	1 2 2½	These rates are calculated on the declared value of the sugar exported, not on the market rates.
1873 - -	111,718	2,882,590	1 4 11	
1874 - -	93,388	2,293,214	1 3 8	
1875 - -	87,449	1,939,378	1 2 2½	

* Of Colonial produce only. Sugar still shows a decrease, consequent on two unfavourable seasons.

47. The other articles of export, the produce of the Colony, which are gradually improving, are vanilla, aloe fibre, cocoa-nut oil, and rum.

48. The value of these exported during the last four years is as follows:—

Denomination.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
	£	£	£	£
Vanilla - - - -	10,560	12,216	29,951	22,134
Aloe fibre - - - -	4,634	4,416	4,403	3,115
Cocoa-nut oil - - -	1,071	9,505	14,297	25,999
Rum - - - -	39,664	47,082	49,268	46,292

Government Reformatory.

49. The daily average number of boys present at the Reformatory throughout the past year was 188, this is the same average number as in 1874. The number actually present on the last day of the year was 177, of the following races :—

Indians	76
Creoles (African descent)	98
Bourbonese	1
Africans	2

There were :—

Orphans	81
Having both parents	68
Father only	13
Mother only	15

of these, 141 were of 11 years of age and upwards, to 17 years, the rest below 11 years.

50. The following return shows the number who passed through the institution during 1875, and how they were disposed of:—

Remaining on last day of 1874	181
New boys entered	69
Returned from masters	7
Deserters recaptured	20
Reconvicted	5
From Powder Mills prison	23
Total	305
Apprenticed	10
Discharged	67
Escaped	22
Died	5
To Powder Mills Prison	18
Released on Government Order	6
Remaining on last day of 1875	177
Total	305

Of the 69 boys received in 1875, 68 had not been convicted of any offence before, and one had been convicted once.

Their races were:—

Indians	23
Creoles (African descent)	46
Bourbonese	0
Africans	0
Total	69

The Indian boys have therefore decreased, and the Creoles of African descent have entered in greater proportion than in the previous year.

51. Of the seven returned to the institution from masters three were re-apprenticed, two were re-convicted, and two apprenticed to the Reformatory.

52. The number of deserters during the year was 22, and 20 were recaptured.

53. The total expenditure on account of the institution in 1875 was 2,637*l.* In this buildings and repairs are not included. The value of the boys' labour, of articles made and produce raised, was estimated at 725*l.* The stock in hand at the end of the year consisted of—

	£	s.	d.
Articles made and valued at - -	8	15	0
Raw materials - - -	49	13	0
or a total of -	£58	8	0

54. The health of the inmates has been excellent, 303 cases were treated in hospital, and there have been five deaths.

Education.

55. In the Government schools for elementary instruction the following table shows the average number of pupils on the rolls and other particulars during three years:—

—	Number.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance.
1873 - - -	5,275	3,090	58·57
1874 - - -	5,276	3,426	64·93
1875 - - -	5,452	3,452	63·31

56. In 1875 of those on the rolls there were—

Boys - - - -	4,174
Girls - - - -	1,278

57. Pupils are now admitted at the ages of six to eight years. Formerly a large proportion of the pupils came to school for the first time at ages ranging from 12 to 15 years. A great improvement has been made in this respect. The requirement of school fees has been left to the discretion of the masters, instead of payment being imperative, and this has contributed to bring to school children at an earlier age than heretofore.

58. The number of pupils in the Government schools who were examined to be graded according to six fixed standards in reading, writing, and arithmetic was 2,854, the remainder of the pupils, either from being too young or from other causes, were not examined. The number passed in each subject was 2,104, 2,013, and 2,143 respectively.

59. The number of Indian pupils in the Government schools was—

Boys - - - -	1,751
Girls - - - -	171

60. The total expenditure on Government schools for 1875 was 12,725*l.*, including rent for houses and premises. This includes everything except books, stationery, and general superintendence.

61. The amount of fees received was 779*l.*

62. The average cost for the year to Government of each pupil, according to the average (3,452) attendance, and deducting the amount of fees received, was 3*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

63. During the year the number of schools receiving grants in aid was—

Roman Catholic - - -	29
Church of England - - -	11
Independent - - - -	2
Total -	42

64. The following table exhibits the number of pupils on the rolls and attending the above schools during three years:—

—	Average on Rolls.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance.
1873 - - -	2,710	1,653	60·99
1874 - - -	2,734	1,829	66·89
1875 - - -	3,156	1,986	62·92

65. The revised conditions for grants in aid which were alluded to in last year's Report took effect on the 1st of January. Under those conditions, examinations for teachers have been held. The number who secured certificates was small.

66. The total amount granted to the 42 assisted schools in 1875 was 2,652*l.* The average cost to Government of each pupil, according to the average attendance at the schools, was 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

67. The number of pupils in grant in aid schools who were examined for classification in the three subjects of instruction was 3,036. The number of those who passed in five of the Standard tests was 1,090. In the highest or Standard VI. no pupil passed.

68. The number of Indian pupils attending the grant in aid schools was—

Boys - - - -	533
Girls - - -	164
Total -	697

69. Of the pupils who left Government schools during 1875, 270 boys have engaged in various industrial occupations. 21 girls have done the same.

Railway.

70. The receipts and expenses were as follows:—

—	1875.	1874.	Remarks.
	£	£	
Receipts - - -	115,924	128,438*	*These figures show the amounts actually received on account of the years.
Working and contingent Expenses - -	96,877	109,698	
Surplus -	19,047	18,740	
Per-centage of expenditure to receipts -	83·56	85·40	

71. The decrease resulted from a diminution in the traffic both as to goods and passengers. There was an increase in the number of tons of sugar conveyed, but a decrease in the general

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merchandise. The diminution of passengers by no less a number than 125,000 was considerable, while the proportion of the diminution being 24 per cent. among the first class, 9 per cent. of the second, and 10 per cent. of the third, shows that all classes of the community were affected by the depressed condition of the Colony. The chief loss in receipts appeared among the third class passengers and amounted to 5,570*l.*

As soon as it was evident that there would be a decrease in receipts the expenditure was reduced. The expenditure of the year includes cost of about two and a half miles of steel rails with all repairs to bridges, stations, and buildings.

A new light engine has been put upon the north line, and 15 covered waggons were rebuilt and converted into six-wheeled waggons.

The carriage and waggon establishment was removed during the year to Plainehawnun, so that the whole of the railway workshops are now concentrated.

72. The actual expenditure for the year exceeded the estimated expenditure by 12,373*l.* This increase is accounted for:—

1st. Through using steel rails as before mentioned, which had been ordered and included in the estimates for 1874, but were only entered in the accounts when actually used, viz., in April 1875.

2nd. To the expenditure of 2,713*l.* balance of special vote for the re-arrangement of workshops.

Telegraph.

73. The train signalling messages and railway service messages passed during the year numbered 86,842. Messages on telegraph service were 8,425. The messages for the various departments of Government numbered 801. Those sent by private persons, for which alone cash payment is made, amounted to 7,619.

74. The total expenditure for the year, including establishments, amounted to 1,268*l.*

75. The cash receipts for messages sent by private persons amounted to 700*l.* The cost of messages sent by Government Departments on the public service for which no payment is made amounted to 99*l.*

76. The net receipts, deducting sums paid for delivery of messages, was 623*l.* The actual cost therefore of the telegraph to the Treasury amounted to 645*l.* for the year.

Public Works.

77. No new work of importance was begun. A large dormitory for the inmates of the Reformatory was completed. The total cost of the building has been 2,900*l.*

78. A new hospital has been completed at the Orphan Asylum. The buildings of a new lunatic asylum were proceeded with. The sum of 3,425*l.* has been expended thereon during the year.

79. A shed for the Customs wharf was completed. This is an extensive work. The total cost has been 20,800*l.*

80. For maintenance and repairs of Government buildings the sum of 5,226*l.* was expended.

Sanitary works in the vicinity of Port Louis to fill in hollow and swampy land have cost 1,790*l.* besides the labour of prisoners.

81. Maintenance and repairs of bridges cost 5,759*l.*, of roads 15,559*l.* Various surveys of forest lands, and of lots of land for sale, 500*l.*

82. The whole amount expended during the year was 45,606*l.*, by the books of the Superintendent of Public Works. But as this includes the cost only of the material expended, not that purchased during the year, the outlay as entered in the Account Department will be something more.

Savings Bank.

83. The amount deposited during the year was 81,355*l.*, of this 40,511*l.* were deposited by Indians. The deposits by all persons were 12,278*l.* less in amount than in the previous year. Those by Indians decreased 11,179*l.*

84. The amount withdrawn was 101,727*l.* Of this 46,975*l.* was withdrawn by Indians. The withdrawals have been less by 5,634*l.* than in the previous year. The sum of 14,985*l.* was withdrawn by Indians returning to their own country.

85. The following statement shows the total numbers of depositors and the total amount in deposit on the last days of 1874 and 1875:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount in Deposit.	Average of each, excluding Fractions.
		£	£
1874	10,945	252,734	23
1875	11,147	241,554	21

Of this amount 5,496 Indians held 122,844*l.* at the close of 1875. The interest allowed on deposits is 4 per cent.

Population.

86. In the annual report by the Registrar-General the population is classed in two sections, Indian and general.

On the 31st December 1875 the estimated numbers in Mauritius were:—

Indian.

Males	-	150,896	
Females	-	85,439	
			236,335

General.

Males	-	57,313	
Females	-	50,954	
			108,267
Total	-		344,602

The numbers on 31st December 1874 were as follows:—

Indian.

Males	150,008	
Females	83,309	
		233,317

General.

Males	56,071	
Females	49,983	
		106,054
Total		339,371

The increase in 1875 was:—

Indian.

Males	888		or 0·5 per cent.
Females	2,130		or 2·5 per cent.
		3,018	

General.

Males	1,242		or 2·2 per cent.
Females	971		or 1·9 per cent.
		2,213	
Total		5,231	or 1·54 per cent.

The total increase of population during the year is a little over 15 per 1,000.

87. The death rate of the Indian population was 23·7, that of the general population 27·4, and the total death rate 24·9 per 1,000. The death rate of the city of Port Louis was 35·1 per 1,000. Of the total death rate 11·7 per 1,000 is attributable to fever, against 11·8 in 1874. The deaths of children under five years of age form 39·1 per cent. of the total mortality.

88. The number of children born alive and registered was 12,931, of which 6,504 were boys and 6,427 were girls. Of these 8,596 belonged to the Indian population and 4,335 to the general population.

89. The proportion of births was, to the Indian female population, 100 per 1,000; to the general female population, 85 per 1,000.

The population of Rodrigues and the Seychelles is not included.

Immigration.

90. The number of immigrants actually landed at the depôt in Port Louis was:—

Men - - - -	1,733
Women - - - -	700
Boys - - - -	263
Girls - - - -	223
Total - -	2,919

91. They arrived in eight ships from Calcutta and Madras. Of the above number 247 of both sexes had been in Mauritius before.

92. The sanitary condition of the immigrants on arrival was very satisfactory.

93. The total number of Indians who returned from Mauritius to their own country was:—

Males - - - -	2,368
Females - - - -	1,055
Total - -	3,423

This number includes 430 males and 421 females born in the Island.

94. The amount of money in cash or drafts declared by the above emigrants as being taken with them was:—

	£
Cash - - - -	30,276
Drafts - - - -	13,427
Total - -	43,703

401 men stated they had no money.

95. Of those who embarked 396 had their passages paid by the Government or the Poor Law Commission under existing rules, and 3,006 paid their own passages. The remaining 21 earned their return passage, working as cooks or otherwise. The cost of return passages was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To Calcutta - - - -	2	15	0
,, Madras - - -	2	10	0
,, Bombay - - - -	3	0	0

96. The amount of money remitted to India by drafts through the Protector of Immigrants during the year was 14,655*l.*; 13,427*l.* being carried by the remitters, as above mentioned; and drafts to the amount of 1,228*l.* sent otherwise.

97. The estimated number of Indian immigrants in the Colony on the last day of the year was:—

Males - - - -	105,738
Females - - -	44,491
Total - -	150,229

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or 2,632 (2,020 males and 612 females) less than on the 31st December 1874. This number is, of course, exclusive of those of Indian parentage born in the Island.

98. The births among Indian immigrants during the year were:—

Males - - - -	3,722
Females - - - -	3,647
Total - -	7,369

99. During the year 60,555 labourers, whose agreements for service had expired, made new arrangements for labour. Of these 37,413 re-engaged with the same employers. Five-sixths of these re-engagements were for periods not exceeding one year. The number of Indians born in the Island who engaged for labour in 1875 was 6,545, against 6,310 in 1874. The number of such persons engaging for labour is steadily increasing.

100. The number of suicides among Indians in Mauritius is very large. In the past year it amounted to 50. Among these four cases were of females.

101. Since August 1875 every case of suicide among the Indian population has been inquired into by an Inspector of Immigrants. The causes stated for those which occurred during the past year are as follows:—

Ill health - - - -	13
Drink - - - -	8
Domestic troubles - - -	2
Jealousy - - - -	2
Temporary insanity - - -	7
After committing murder - -	2
Melancholy, or home sickness - -	1
Total - -	35

The causes of the remaining 15 are not known.

102. The mortality of Indians on sugar estates during the year was, as nearly as can be discovered from the returns, 22·10 per 1,000 among the population on sugar estates. This is about 4 per cent. less than the death rate of the general population, which includes that of the city of Port Louis.

103. The amount of deposits in the Government Savings Bank held by Indians at the end of 1875 was 122,844*l.*

104. The number of Indians convicted under the labour laws in 1875 for refusing to work, unlawful absence, desertion, and such like, was 4,752 against 4,473 in the previous year. The number of convictions of employers on the complaint of Indian immigrants for non-payment of wages, breach of ration rules, and so on, was 1,794 against 1,979 in the previous year.

Legislation.

105. Forty-two ordinances were passed by the Council of Government during 1875.

106. The principal objects in view in the several ordinances were as follows:—

For grant of supplies.

For abolishing the special taxes by which funds were raised and kept apart from the general revenue for the relief of the poor.

For altering the constitution of the Poor Law Commission.

For the prevention of depredations on vanilla plantations.

For providing means for vaccination, and the appointment of public vaccinators.

For the conservation of woods and forests, and for the acquisition of land by the Crown, with a view to the preservation and extension of forest land necessary for retention of water supply.

For the protection of inventors and discoverers.

For the regulation of lotteries.

For the amendment of some articles of the penal code, particularly as regards infringement of the law relating to marriages.

For the licensing of careening hulks, for increasing the rates payable by those using Government steam tugs, and for the payment of all harbour dues to the Collector of Customs instead of to the Harbour Master.

For regulating the construction of buildings in the interests of the public health and safety from fire or other dangers.

To re-adjust the boundaries of districts.

For improving elementary education among the poorer classes in schools receiving grants in aid.

For the establishment of vote by ballot at municipal elections.

And finally, for the appointment of an itinerary magistrate to the distant dependencies of Mauritius, commonly called the "Oil Islands."

Observatory.

107. The work carried on is meteorological, magnetic, and astronomical.

108. In the first named five eye observations of the principal elements have been taken, tabulated, and reduced, daily throughout the year.

109. Daily photographic records of the atmospheric pressure have been obtained. The curves have been reduced, and the hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly means have been tabulated.

110. Since the month of August the direction and velocity of the wind have been recorded by a self registering anemometer.

111. Observations on the rainfall at 26 stations in the Island have been received, also observations from Seychelles and Rodrigues.

112. Detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes during the year throughout the Indian Ocean have been obtained, and the observations tabulated.

113. The tracks of cyclones which occurred in the Southern Indian Ocean during the seven years ending with 1875 have been determined and laid down on charts.

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114. Observations showing the concurrent appearance of numerous sun spots with a high rainfall in various parts of the world, and of a diminished rainfall when the spots are less numerous, have been collected.

115. Additional investigations have been made on the curve described by the air in a cyclone, which tend to confirm the theory of a spirally in-blowing movement.

116. In magnetic work, daily photographic curves showing the variations of declination and horizontal and vertical force have been obtained Two magnetic storms have been observed.

117. In the astronomical work the daily observations for mean time have been taken. The time ball on Signal Mountain, Port Louis, has been dropped three times in each week.

118. The solar eclipse of the 6th of April was observed and photographed.

119. From the 13th of April to the 31st of December 85 sun pictures were taken, showing the numbers and positions of solar spots.

120. The Director and his assistants have been indefatigable in the performance of their duty.

Royal Botanic Garden.

121. The number of visitors to the Garden during the year was 58,677, against 65,887 in 1874.

122. The number of plants, trees, and shrubs reared and sent out was 302,643, of that number about 157,200 trees were sent to the various plantations which are being formed for sanitary and other useful purposes, or were supplied to the Municipality, the General Board of Health, or the Railway Department, for similar objects.

123. About 143,100 plants were sold, and the sum realized was 259*l.* Of these 27,500 were coffee shrubs. Coffee plants of the Liberian and Cape Coast varieties have been introduced.

124. Various useful trees have been introduced from India and Australia.

125. A thick border of native trees and shrubs has been planted round the garden. This is to shelter the whole ground, and to have seed at hand of the best native timber trees.

126. A small plantation of tea has been made as an experiment.

127. Some Cinchona bark from the trees grown at the Curepipe Garden was sent for analysis to the Professor of Chemistry, Royal College. No report thereon had been received at the close of the year.

128. The total expenditure on account of both gardens during the year was 1,574*l.*

Rodrigues.

129. The population of this Island, as appears from more exact data than were available last year, does not exceed 1,400 souls. Of these about 950 are employed in agriculture and 300 in fisheries.

130. The revenue amounted to 1,046*l.*, and the expenditure to 1,397*l.*

131. The imports were valued at 3,166, and the exports at 8,271*l.* In the latter are included the value of 678 head of cattle.

132. There is one Government school attended by 47 children.

133. The climate of Rodrigues is remarkably healthy.

Gaols and Prisons.

134. There are eight rural district gaols, and one central gaol in the city of Port Louis.

135. The daily average number of prisoners in gaol during the year was 1,319 against 1,189 of the previous year. Although there has been an increase in the daily average number of prisoners during 1875 as compared with 1874 of 130 there has been a decrease on the average number in 1871, which amounted to 1,404.

136. The general death rate per cent. per annum was 2·43 against 2·69 in 1874.

137. In the new prison at the village of Pondre d'Or the sick rate is stated to have been 9·46 per cent. and the death rate 6·76.

138. This prison, which was only finished in 1873, has not proved healthy. Measures are being taken with the view of rectifying what is amiss.

139. The total number of persons convicted in 1875 was as follows:—

Europeans - - - -	272
Creoles - - - -	1,496
Indians - - - -	9,715
Total - - -	11,483

In these numbers 135 convicted juveniles are included.

Of the 11,483 persons convicted, 2,491 were condemned to one month's imprisonment, and for longer periods. To a shorter period than one month 8,992 were sentenced.

1,819 of these persons had been convicted once previously.

1,370 twice.

1,371 thrice or oftener.

So that more than 40 per cent. of the whole number had been previously convicted; but these convictions were mostly for minor offences, which imply but a small amount of moral delinquency.

140. There were 1,837 offences against prison rules in 1875, against 1,717 in 1874.

141. The number of disciplinary punishments inflicted in 1875 was 1,837; and in 1874, 1,717.

142. The number of prisoners who escaped in 1875 was 79. Nearly all of these escaped from out-door working parties. 73 escaped prisoners were recaptured.

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143. The proportion of convicted persons per cent. to population, general and Indian separately, for the year 1875 was as follows:—

General population - - -	1·63
Indian ,, - - -	4·11

Minor Dependencies.

144. The minor dependencies consist of island groups scattered at wide intervals apart in the Indian Ocean. In some of these islands cocoa-nut oil is produced, and they have a resident working population. These islands were visited during the year by Mr. Pakenham Brooks as Magistrate. His report thereon was laid before the Council of Government, and was printed.

145. Ordinance 41 of 1875 was passed to provide for the proper treatment of labourers and servants in the Oil Islands.

146. The quantity of cocoa-nut oil produced amounted to 259,390 gallons.

General Remarks.

147. There was throughout the year much commercial depression. In consequence of great derangement in the currency the rupee of India was, in the last quarter of the year, made the standard of value and the legal tender of payment at the rate of 2*s*. Agricultural interests suffered from deficiency of rain in the earlier part of the year. This effected injuriously all classes.

A. P. PHAYRE.

REPORT by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Seychelles, to his Excellency Major-General Sir ARTHUR PURVES PHAYRE, K.C.S.I., C.B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Mauritius.

Chief Civil Commissioner's Office, Seychelles,
February 24, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to send to your Excellency the duplicate returns for the Seychelles Blue Book for the year 1875.

Legislation.

Proclamation No. 11 of 1875 of his Excellency Sir A. P. Phayre extends Ordinance No. 5 of 1875 to Seychelles, this Ordinance authorises the duplicates of civil status records to be completed where such do not exist.

Proclamation No. 14 of 1875 empowers the Chief Civil Commissioner of Seychelles to call for, and inspect Civil Status. Returns by Ordinance of Mauritius, No. 3 of 1875, Article 2, the surcharges on exports of goods to Seychelles, for Mauritius poor tax, imposed by Article 16, of Ordinance No. 10 of 1868 are abolished.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 authorises the oath of allegiance, judicial and official oaths to be taken at Seychelles by the Chief Civil Commissioner, and the officers of the Local Government.

Ordinance No. 8 of 1875 repeals Article 16 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1875 (enacted to provide means to put a stop to depredations in vanilla plantations). This Article extended the Ordinance to Seychelles. The feeling among the planters in these Islands at the time was that the Act was not required here. Ordinance No. 25 of 1875 regulates the manner of appointment, the travelling expenses allowed, and the duties of ushers in Seychelles.

Ordinance 57 of 1875 abolishes the license of 5*l.* payable for manufacturing tobacco in Seychelles, and reduces the selling license from 5*l.* to 2*l.*

During the year the Board of Civil Commissioners passed the following resolutions :—

No. 1 alters the boundary line between the two wards into which the Island of Mahé is divided.

No. 2 repeals the Regulations 9 & 10 of 1874. It was found that these Regulations in no wise answered the purposes for which they were passed. On the other hand they interfered with the system of cultivation which seems to be preferred by the raisers of food produce.

The owners of land, the liberated African and Creole labourers prefer to divide among themselves the crops raised in proportions agreed upon instead of paying and receiving money wages.

No. 3 provides means to check the larcenies of cocoa-nuts. The characteristic of this measure is that any one having cocoa-nuts in his possession must show, on demand, an official permit and satisfy the police as to ownership. The measure was called for.

No. 4 repeals the Local Rate Regulations No. 7 of 1874, and enacts fresh measures.

This Act aims distinctly at bringing within the range of taxation the idle squatter, and exempting the labourer and mechanic under contract of service before a magistrate. It also gives summary jurisdiction to the wardens to imprison for nonpayment of the tax.

No. 5 enacts that proper accommodation and attendance shall be provided for liberated African women when in confinement. The Act comprises all estates and establishments whatever on which the women are employed.

No. 6 enacts that all persons to whom liberated minor Africans are allotted, and who shall neglect to engage them at the legal term before a magistrate, shall be fined.

No. 7 enacts that the Inspector of Africans shall have the same powers of inspection over private dwelling-houses and premises as he has over estates, also that he may enter and prosecute any stipendiary case on behalf of liberated Africans if they are under allotment, or under written contract of service to their employers,

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No. 8 embodies the estimates for the year 1876, amounting in receipts to 12,794*l.*, and in expenditure to 12,671*l.* 12*s.* The distinctive features are, three sub-wardens are provided for the collection of all local taxes and for the supervision of licenses, the police force is increased to 50 men, a mortgage office, and Savings' Bank are provided for, also a surveyor and staff for roads and topographical purposes, and a Justice of the Peace for the Praslin group of Islands.

No. 9 imposes a yearly tax of 6*s.* on each dog.

Two other regulations passed by the Board await confirmation They refer to previous Acts which they are intended to make more full.

By a Regulation passed in April 1875, in Executive Council, the premium to be paid on money orders issued on England was raised from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* in the pound, or 10 per cent.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The duties from Customs levied at Port Louis and Mahé were 424*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* more than last year, 493*l.* 13*s.* more than for 1873, and less by 598*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* than for 1872. The return made out for last year's Blue Book should have shown 80*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* more received from Port Louis. The above comparison is founded on correct figures subsequently received.

There has been a falling off in *quay dues* in the last two years, owing to a lesser quantity of coal having been imported, and fewer case goods landed.

The revenue from *rent of Government land* was less than for last year by 50*l.*, and by 100*l.* for 1873. It was judged advisable to leave unlet for one year the Recif Island, to let the birds increase; the Islands of Curieuse and Félicité reverted to the Crown.

Fees for registration show an increase of 81*l.*, due to increased business. *Rum permits* (duties on rum distilled at Seychelles) show an increase of 371*l.* over last year, 756*l.* over 1873, and 1,251*l.* over 1872, due to increased consumption.

There is a falling off in the dog tax amounting to 41*l.*, due to the view the magistrate took of the wording of the law, since remedied.

The *local rate* fell off by 147*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; the reason for this decrease is not obvious, but probably is partly due to the effect of Regulations 9 and 10 of 1874, which discouraged cultivation on the halves principle, and thereby lessened the value, for the time, of taxable landed property cultivated on that system.

The *sanitary rate* increased from 216*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* to 289*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* More houses had been built, and the value of others had increased. The falling off in the previous rate would not effect this one.

Postage receipts have been about the same for the past two years or more. Commissions on money orders fell off a third from last year, due to the high premium demanded on remittances to England.

Fines, fees, and forfeitures of Court fell from 1,042*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, the sum received in 1874, to 391*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* The ordinary fees of Court only were received. In 1874 there were 600*l.* special fines.

Sales of Government property increased from 28*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* in 1874 to 209*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1875, due to the Islands of Félicité and Curieuse being no longer rented out by Government; the proceeds are from the sale of cocoa-nuts only.

Miscellaneous receipts show 512*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*, against 96*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.* in 1874, the increase is due to the settlement of pension and other accounts with Mauritius.

The Port Victoria waterworks were not finished in 1875, and the receipts, 264*l.*, were less than expected consequently.

Market receipts show a falling off, due to a diminution of sales and attendance.

The other items of revenue call for no remarks.

Revenue.

The estimated revenue for 1875 was 11,939*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*, the total receipts came to 13,323*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.* The receipts under twelve heads of revenue were 453*l.* 6*s.* 9¾*d.* less than the estimates, and under thirteen heads they were 1,838*l.* 3*s.* 7¼*d.* more. 100*l.* of this excess is due to *premiums* on bills bought from the navy and remitted to Mauritius, 303*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* for *pensions*, and other items paid here on behalf of Mauritius in former years. 915*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* is from the revenue *duty on rum* manufactured and consumed at Seychelles, 156*l.* from *licenses in* general, and 77*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* from *registration fees.*

The falling off from the estimates was principally in the *local rate*, 166*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* *Hospital receipts*, 40*l.* 5*s.* Sale of *stamps*, 37*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, and *dog tax*, 47*l.* 5*s.*

The net increase of the receipts over the estimates was 1,384*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.*

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for 1875 was 11,713*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; the actual expenditure was 12,614*l.* 15*s.* 11¾*d.*, being 901*l.* 15*s.* 10¾*d.* in excess.

To this must be added 50*l.* provided for a savings' bank, not expended; 257*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for interest not paid (the loan not having been effected); and 242*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* for the salary of the Assistant Medical Officer, and the charges for his boat, discontinued since March. The police also cost 162*l.* less than was estimated for. On several items there was altogether left unexpended the sum of 1,144*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, and there was thus over expended on others the sum of (1,144*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*+901*l.* 15*s.* 10¾*d.*) 2,046*l.* 6*s.* 11¾*d.*

For *transport* there was 100*l.* provided and 335*l.* expended. This is a large item for our small revenue; it was owing to the arrival of a Civil Chaplain from England, and the local movements of officers, that the amount became so large; besides this,

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the Local Government yet owes, for the passage out of two sisters to the public hospital, about 100*l.*

Works and buildings vote was exceeded by 1,165*l.* 12*s.*, notwithstanding that special votes up to 250*l.* were mostly not expended. Other and more important works had to be taken in hand, and a claim for 545*l.* for a tramway constructed in 1871 had to be met. 784*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, not estimated for, was spent on the waterworks ; and the new African camp, not on the estimates, had cost up to 31st December 1875 142*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

It is understood however from the authority conveyed in a Despatch from the Secretary of State that the cost of the Victoria Waterworks is to come out of the balance in hand.

The expenditure of the year, under these conditions, will not have exceeded the estimates.

Combining all the figures; the real expenditure of 1875 exceeded the total amount provided for in the estimates by 901*l.* 15*s.* 10¾*d.*; the actual revenue exceeded the anticipated receipts by 1,384*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.*, showing a balance in favour of the residue of 483*l.* 0*s.* 10¾*d.*

In last year's report I placed the balance in hand on the 31st December at 2,860*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* This settlement owed the Mauritius Treasury on that date the sum of 811*l.* 13*s.* 9¼*d.* by an account subsequently rendered. The true balance would therefore have been 2,049*l.* 5*s.* 7¾*d.* The balance shown by the Board of Survey (held on the 31st December 1875) to exist in the Treasury money chest at Seychelles and in the bank was 4,480*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* The sum due to Mauritius by the account current rendered, and made up to that date, including all claims, was 1,782*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.* The true balance on 31st December 1875 would therefore be 2,698*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

The balance in hand of the settlement has therefore increased notwithstanding the large unestimated outlay for the Victoria Waterworks, and the claim of 445*l.* for the tramway constructed in 1871.

It is well for the Settlement that the loan of 2,000*l.* for the Victoria Waterworks was not effected.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports for the year 1875 is 32,373*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, against 44,438*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* in 1874. The exports for 1875 are valued at 28,934*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, against 32,552*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* in 1874.

This shows a falling off both ways, but I believe a good deal of it is only bringing the returns to solid grounds. Last year's returns showed a falling off from 1873 of 8,067*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* in imports, and 22,602*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* in exports. I endeavoured to explain how this arose in the face of a larger population and increased prosperity, for beyond doubt the prosperity of the place is increasing.

It is satisfactory to see that although the export of coffee and cloves is little, considering the capacity of the country for raising such articles, the export of them is five times more in quantity than in 1874.

The falling off in the export of tobacco to one-tenth of what it used to be may be ascribed to the manufacturing license. The grower is mostly always the manufacturer, and the chances of the culture of this plant are such, that it either gives a large profit or a loss. The small proprietor, who is mostly the cultivator and manufacturer, is willing to risk his labour, the tax he had to pay if he succeeded deterred him from cultivating this plant. The consequence of the abolition of the manufacturing license on tobacco will show in next year increased exports of the article.

The falling off in the export of cocoa-nut oil amounts to 15,000 velts. I am the less able to explain this because the yield of cocoa-nuts is apparently increasing throughout all the Islands. There are no checks on exports hence to Mauritius that may be absolutely depended on, and the returns commented on are not estimated for 1875, but are extracted from available manifests.

The falling off in cotton may be put down to the low market price; 22,552 lbs. only fetched 135*l.* 5*s.* in 1875, in 1874 the same quantity would have been sold for 440*l.*

Maize, powdered manioc, and salt fish used to be more largely exported.

This is the principal food of the people and the falling off must be attributed to the effect of the (since repealed) regulations 9 & 10 of 1874, which beyond doubt lessened the production.

In imports the falling off is in spirits 250*l.*, wine 370*l.*, sugar 1,000*l.*, tobacco and cigars 240*l.*, coffee 600*l.*, and haberdashery and millinery 11,500*l.* Food, boots, and shoes, cotton goods of commerce, and similar articles were more largely imported. The imports as a whole look more healthy although their value is diminished.

Educational.

In the Church of England School at Port Victoria there was an increase for the year in attendance of three boys, making a total average of 90, 50 boys and 40 girls.

The attendance at the Church of England School at Praslin Island fell from 12 to 7 for the girls, and from 20 to 6 for the boys.

At Pointe au Sel Church of England School the attendance of boys and girls fell from 20 to 15.

The Protestant Schools were not examined for 1875, and therefore received no grant in aid.

The Roman Catholic boys' school at Port Victoria showed an attendance of 115, being an increase of six over the year previous.

The Roman Catholic girls' school at Port Victoria showed an attendance of 287, being an increase of five over the previous year.

A Roman Catholic girls' school was opened at Royal Bay during the year and showed an average attendance of 55.

The total attendance in the three Roman Catholic schools for the year 1875 was 457. There were four masters for 115 boys and 11 European mistresses for the 342 girls. The schools were

examined by the acting inspector and the grant in aid according to results came to 361*l.* which amount was paid by the Local Government.

A very valuable institution was started here during the year 1875 under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society of England, being an Industrial School for Liberated Africans or their immediate descendants. The institution has already 42 children temporarily placed at Port Victoria; but, during the course of 1876 it is proposed to remove them to an estate in the Mountains gratuitously given by the Local Government.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There were 604 persons arrested and tried during the year 1875,497 were convicted, 198 had undergone imprisonment for previous offences; the total of 267*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* was paid in fines. The serious offences were three convictions for perjury, and one for poisoning; 441 of the convictions were for terms of three months confinement or less; the daily average of prisoners was 58 (including those remaining over from 1874), 18 prisoners were sent to the hospital during the year, of whom two died; the average sick list was unaltered (between 10 to 11 a month). There were five prisoners pardoned during the year by the Chief Civil Commissioner.

Agriculture.

Nearly 100 acres of vanilla, containing about 150,000 plants, have been recently laid out at the Island of Mahé. There was a good quantity of land being laid out in tobacco as the year closed. The land under coffee increased by 50 acres in 1875. About 50 per cent. more land was planted with maize and for root crops than in 1874, mostly within the closing three months of the year. The plantations of cocoa are increasing. It is calculated that about one million cocoa-nut trees are in bearing in the Archipelago and about half as many more young trees will bear within the next five years.

Commerce, Shipping, and Manufactures.

A larger number of men are engaged at Seychelles as sailors in foreign going vessels and whalers than formerly; 167 men were so engaged in 1875.

Eighty-one vessels, measuring 27,649 tons, reported inwards at Port Victoria during the year 1875, including mail steamers and whalers; they brought 407 passengers for Seychelles.

The wages of mechanics and labourers have risen about 20 per cent. during the last two years.

The fibre manufactory at Port Victoria is about to be largely developed, and a rope walk and oil crushing machinery are to be added.

Public Health.

There were 464 births in 1875 against 432 in 1874. The number of deaths rose from 222 in 1874 to 318 in 1875. The extra deaths mostly occurred among children and took place principally at Port Victoria. This town is increasing yearly in population, and the sanitary arrangements are not quite satisfactory; they will have to be seen to.

I have, &c.
C. S. SALMON,
Chief Civil Commissioner, Seychelles.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 16.

Governor SIR H. ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Sydney,
December 4, 1876.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith the Statistical Register of New South Wales for the year 1875.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.—STATISTICAL RETURN showing the relative positions and aggregate importance of the Australasian Colonies, at the close of the Year 1875.

Name of Colony.	Estimated Mean Population of 1875.	Revenue of 1875.	Proportion of Revenue of 1875 raised by Taxation.	Rate of Taxation per head of Population.	Public Debt on Dec. 31, 1875.	Rate of Indebtedness per head of the Population.	Value of Imports for 1875.	Value of Imports. per head of the Population.	Value of Exports for 1875.	Value of Exports per head of the Population.
		£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales - -	595,465	4,121,996	1,138,901	1 18 3	11,470,637	19 5 3	*13,490,200	22 13 1	13,671,580	22 19 2
Victoria - - -	815,034	†4,236,423	1,724,822	‡2 2 9	13,995,093	17 3 5	16,685,874	20 9 5	14,766,974	18 2 4
South Australia - -	§206,476	1,143,312	339,103	1 12 10	3,320,600	16 1 7	4,203,802	20 7 2	4,805,051	23 5 5
Queensland - -	172,402	1,261,464	562,227	3 5 2	6,948,586	40 6 1	3,328,009	19 6 0	3,857,576	22 7 6
Tasmania - - -	103,920	343,676	213,642	2 1 1	1,489,400	14 6 7	1,185,942	11 8 3	1,085,976	10 9 0
Western Australia - -	26,459	157,775	80,645	3 0 11	135,000	5 2 0	349,840	13 4 5	391,217	14 15 8
Total - -	1,919,756	11,264,646	4,059,340	2 6 10	37,359,316	18 14 2	39,243,667	17 18 1	38,578,374	18 13 2
New Zealand - -	358,858	‖1,677,626	¶1,350,295	3 15 3	17,400,031	48 9 8	8,029,172	22 7 5	5,828,627	16 4 10
Total for Australasian Colonies - -	2,278,614	12,942,272	5,409,635	2 10 10	54,759,347	22 19 2	47,272,839	18 10 10	44,407,001	18 6 3

* The values of 95 packages drapery, 1,497 cases of hardware and ironmongery, 2,465 packages of oilmen's stores, and 2,451 packages of sundries are not given in the return of imports overland from South Australia.

† Year ended June 30.

‡ The mean population of the year ended June 30, 1875 (806,760) has been used in making this calculation.

§ Population on the 1st July.

‖ Revenue of Colonial Government.—The total ordinary and territorial revenue of General and Provincial Governments was 2,813,928*l.*

¶ Revenue of Colonial Government.

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.—STATISTICAL RETURN showing the relative positions and aggregate importance of the Australasian Colonies at the close of the Year 1875—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Total Value of Trade, Imports, and Exports.	Value of Trade per head of the Population.	Miles of Railway open, Dec. 31, 1875.	Miles of Railway in course of Construction, Dec. 31, 1875.	Miles of Telegraph Wire open, Dec. 31, 1875.	Miles of Telegraph in course of Construction, Dec. 31, 1875.	No. of Acres under Cultivation in 1875.	No. of Horses in 1875.	No. of Cattle in 1875.	No. of Sheep in 1875.	No. of Pigs in 1875.
	£	£ s. d.									
New South Wales - -	27,161,780	45 12 3	437	*251½	8,012	1,317	451,138	357,696	3,134,086	24,382,536	199,950
Victoria - - -	31,452,848	38 11 9	617	358	4,510	18½	1,126,831	196,184	1,054,598	11,749,532	140,765
South Australia - -	9,008,853	43 12 7	197	174	3,904	1,100	1,444,586	107,164	219,240	6,179,395	100,562
Queensland - -	7,185,585	41 13 6	265	113	3,956	616	77,347	121,497	1,812,576	7,227,774	46,447
Tasmania - - -	2,271,918	21 17 3	150	†17	468	117	332,824	23,473	118,694	‡1,719,768	47,664
Western Australia -	741,058	28 0 1	Nil ?	33	766	830	47,571	29,379	50,416	881,861	14,420
Total - -	77,822,042	36 11 3	1,666	946½	21,616	3,998½	3,480,297	835,393	6,389,610	52,140,866	549,808
New Zealand - -	13,857,799	38 12 3	542	464	3,156	—	§2,377,402	‖99,859	‖494,917	‖11,704,853	‖123,921
Total for Australasian Colonies - -	91,679,841	36 17 1	2,208	1,410½	24,772	3,998½	5,857,699	935,252	6,884,527	63,845,719	673,729

* Exclusive of a private line of railway 45 miles in length.
† Exclusive of a private line of railway 5½ miles in length.
‡ Exclusive of 11,955 sheep on Islands in Bass's Straits.
§ Includes 146,414 acres broken up but not under crop, and 1,770,264 acres of permanent artificial grasses.
‖ Last year's return.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT to the Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Registrar-General's Office,
Sydney, August 8, 1876.

SIR,

HAVING just received from the hands of the printer the first portion of the tables which form the Statistical Register of this Colony, I at once apply myself to the duty of bringing under your notice, in the shape of a short Report, the most noteworthy points in these statistics.

PART I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population, vital statistics, immigration.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1875 was 606,652 souls, being an increase on the previous year of 22,374, or 3·83 per cent. The number of males is estimated at 334,461, and of females at 272,191, showing 62,270 more males than females, the proportion of the sexes being nearly the same as in the previous year, viz., 550 to 450 per 1,000. The births registered during the year numbered 22,528, of which 11,380 were males and 11,148 females. The immigration returns give 30,967 arrivals, so that from these two sources we get an addition to our population of 53,495 souls. From these figures, however, must be deducted the number of deaths and departures from the Colony; the former being 10,771 (consisting of 6,245 males and 4,526 females), and the latter 20,350; in all 31,121 souls, leaving 22,374 persons, as before stated, as the increase to our population of 606,652 persons. These figures can only be taken as an estimate, for there is no doubt that New South Wales has received a large influx of overland population of which no record can be obtained.

Marriages.

The number of marriages celebrated in the Colony during the year was 4,605, being 262 in excess of the previous year. The proportion to every 1,000 of the population* at the middle of the year was 7·75; the average for the previous nine years being 7·86. With regard to marriages celebrated by the various denominations, we find the following to be the numerical result:—Church of England, 1,618; Roman Catholic, 953; Presbyterian, 906; Wesleyan Methodist, 502; Congregationalist, 186; Registrars' Offices, 250; the remaining denominations being under treble figures.

Births.

The births for the year numbered 22,528, being an increase of 350 on the previous year. The ratio per 1,000 is 37·92.

Deaths.

The death registers show the number to be 10,771, being 2,119 in excess of the previous year, and amounts to 18·12 per 1,000 of estimated population, which is an increase of 2·96 per 1,000 on the rate of 1874.

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* 594,179.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Immigration.

The total number of persons who arrived in the Colony during the year, exclusive of inter-colonial and foreign arrivals, which have already been stated, was 1,506, composed of 1,184 adults (males 694, females 490) and 322 children. There were 973 immigrants at the public expense, and 533 were landed at their own cost.

The religious persuasions of immigrants at the public expense were as follows:—Protestants, 675; Roman Catholics, 298. Of this description of immigrants 50·77 per cent. were from England and Wales, 16·75 per cent. from Scotland, and 31·45 per cent. from Ireland.

Lunatic and invalid establishments.

The number of patients admitted and re-admitted during the year into the Gladesville establishment was 337, viz.:—203 males and 134 females; these, together with the inmates in this hospital at the beginning of the year, make up a total of 888 patients under care.

The number of deaths, discharges, &c. during the year, left 642 on the 31st December 1875.

The average number of residents was 591. The per-centage of recoveries on admissions and of patients relieved was 28·78 and 3·56 respectively. The death per-centage on average numbers resident was 7·95. The admissions and re-admissions into the Free Lunatic Asylum at Parramatta were 63, viz.:—41 males and 22 females. The number of patients in this asylum on 1st January 1875 was 725, so that there were 788 patients under treatment during the year, of which number 48 are accounted for under the head of discharged and died. The deaths on average numbers resident were 5·39 per cent.

There were 34 inmates in the Convict Lunatic Establishment at Parramatta, and the asylum for lunatics and imbeciles shows 198 patients under care during the year, 20 of whom died and 4 were discharged. The death rate for the year was 12·19 per cent. The Asylum of Bay View House, Cook's River Road, commenced the year with 114 patients, which were increased to 126 during the year, 15 of which number were either discharged or died. The total number of all classes of persons of unsound mind who were either admitted or re-admitted into some lunatic establishment during the year 1875, excluding the returns from the Lunatic Receiving House at Darlinghurst, was 446, and the total number under treatment was 2,034. Taking the population at the middle of the year, the ratio per 1,000 of persons of unsound mind was 3·42. The total cost to the Government of these establishments for the year was 56,342*l.* From this sum, however, should be deducted the sum of 1,076*l.*, received from relations and friends for the maintenance of patients, and paid into the Colonial Treasury.

Hospitals.

The returns from the various hospitals in the Colony show that the admissions during the year numbered 5,566, which, with 503 patients remaining over from the previous year, gives a total of 6,069 persons who received treatment. From this number 10·87 per cent. died, 80·29 per cent. were discharged, and 8·83 per

NEW SOUTH WALES.

cent. were left in hospital at the close of the year. The number of patients who received out-door relief during the year was 8,015; by far the larger portion (viz., 7,517) are found in the returns of the metropolitan hospitals. The total receipts for the year on behalf of hospitals amounted to 35,020*l.*, of which amount 18,453*l.* was supplied by the Government, and 16,567*l.* was the result of voluntary contributions. St. Vincent's Hospital was the only one maintained without aid from the Government.

Benevolent asylums.

The number admitted into these institutions (including children) during the year was 1,943, which, added to the number found to be inmates at the end of the preceding year, brings the total up to 3,308, who were actually in these asylums during the year. The per-centage of discharges was 45·89, of deaths 12·36, and of those remaining on 31st December, 41·75. There were 3,104 cases in which relief was afforded. The amount received in aid of these asylums was 20,195*l.* from the Government, and 14,456*l.* was provided by voluntary contributions, making a total of 34,651*l.*

Orphan and industrial schools.

In this category of schools we find that the number of inmates at the beginning of the year was 1,827, and that there were 349 admissions during the year. There were 45 deaths, and 416 were discharged, leaving 1,826 under care at the close of the year. The receipts for the year amounted to 28,908*l.*, the Government contributing 21,833*l.*, and 7,075*l.* were obtained from private sources.

Miscellaneous.

Under this head will be found six institutions of a charitable nature, whose receipts amounted to 3,855. This amount, however, does not include the receipts of the Sydney Sailors' Home, from which institution no information was given on this point. Out of these six institutions one only, viz., the Sydney Foundling Hospital, received aid from the Government. The total receipts for the year for charitable institutions amounted to 160,361*l.*, made up as follows: From voluntary contributions, 42,238*l.*; from the Treasury, 118,123*l.* These totals are exclusive of the Female Protestant Training School and the Sydney Sailors' Home.

Wages.

The following table shows the average rate of wages obtained in the Colony during the year 1875:—

	Without Board and Lodging.	With Board and Lodging.
Males.		
Carpenters - - -	9*s.* to 10*s.* per diem.	60*l.* to 80*l.* per annum.
Smiths - - - -	9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* „	60*l.* to 80*l.* „
Wheelwrights - - -	9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* „	60*l.* to 80*l.* „
Bricklayers - - -	11*s.* „	80*l.* to 100*l.* „
Masons - - - -	10*s.* to 12*s.* „	80*l.* to 100*l.* „
Farm labourers - - -	- - -	30*l.* to 45*l.* „
Shepherds - - -	- - -	35*l.* to 40*l.* „

	Without Board and Lodging.	With Board and Lodging.
Females.		
Cooks (plain)		30*l.* to 40*l.* per annum.
Housemaids		26*l.* to 32*l.* „
Laundresses		32*l.* to 40*l.* „
Nursemaids		26*l.* to 30*l.* „
General house-servants		26*l.* to 40*l.* „
Farmhouse servants, dairy-women, &c.		26*l.* to 35*l.* „

PART II.

Religion, Education, and Crime.

Ecclesiastical —churches,&c.

The number of registered ministers of religion in the Colony during the year 1875 was 601. Out of this number 509 belonged to the following denominations, viz. :—Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Methodist, the residue being distributed among 17 other denominations.

The denominations mentioned above received in salaries and allowances the sum of 19,331*l.*, and from the Church and School estates the sum of 6,986*l.*, making a total of 26,317*l.* Of this amount 52·72 per cent. fell to the share of the Church of England; 32·61 per cent. to the Church of Rome; 8·29 per cent. to the Presbyterian Church; and 6·38 per cent. to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The total number of churches in the Colony was 1,089, which contained 177,882 sittings. The average attendance was 150,221, and there was also an average attendance of 33,159 at all other places used for public worship.

Sunday schools.

The Sunday school returns show that there were 1,012 in the Colony, with 6,731 teachers and 54,468 scholars.

Education— private schools.

The private schools of the Colony, which numbered 927 in the year 1874, increased to 989 in the year under consideration, which gives an increase of 62, and the scholars receiving instruction had increased to 18,427, which shows an excess of 1,598.

Orphan and industrial schools.

In these schools it will be seen that the number of children receiving instruction was 1,348, which is a decrease of 136 on the number for the previous year.

Council of Education— public schools.

The return of public schools in the Colony shows the following result:—Number of schools 461, being an increase of 41; number of teachers 796, an increase of 49; number of scholars 58,811, an increase of 5,109.

Provisional schools.

These schools increased in number from 244 to 262, showing an addition of 18; number of teachers from 244 to 264, an increase of 20; number of scholars from 8,002 to 8,786, an increase of 784.

Half-time schools.

There were 116 of these schools, which is a reduction of six on the previous year; the teachers numbered 59 as against 63; and the scholars were reduced in number from 2,462 to 2,350.

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The total number of scholars in these three classes of schools was 69,947, and the increase on the previous year 5·781. The amount received during the year was 42,573*l.*, being the proceeds of fees, voluntary contributions, &c.

Denominational schools:—

The following figures show the positions of the denominational schools as compared with the previous year.

Church of England.

Number of schools 89, decrease 6; number of teachers 191, decrease 13; number of scholars 17,771, decrease 335.

Roman Catholic.

Number of schools 86, decrease 3; number of teachers 160, decrease 11; number of scholars 13,941, decrease 1,094.

Presbyterian.

Number of schools 7, decrease 3; number of teachers 13, decrease 1; number of scholars 1,051, decrease 526.

Wesleyan Methodist.

Number of schools 8, decrease 1; number of teachers 19, increase 1; number of scholars 1,560, increase 291.

Hebrew.

There was one teacher less, and the scholars numbered 186, being a decrease of 45. The total number of scholars in the denominational schools was 34,509, and the decrease was 1,709. The amount received as voluntary contributions, fees, &c. was 17,723*l.* Taking all classes of schools under the Council of Education, we find that the number of scholars was 104,456, which figures exceed those of the previous year by 4,072. The total amount of money expended during the year (including building fund account) was 222,482*l.*, showing an additional outlay of 40,637*l.* The total number of those receiving instruction in the various schools and educational establishments of the Colony during the year 1875 was 124,756, showing a total increase of 5,623 scholars.

Schools of Art, &c.

For the first time will be found, on pages 20, 21, 22, 23, returns from the New South Wales Academy of Art, Free Public Library, Schools of Art, and Australian Museum.

Crime.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 19,125, and the number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrates 44,511.

There were 30,526 summary convictions, and 707 convictions in the superior courts, making a total of 31,233 convictions. The number acquitted was as follows:—In the inferior courts, 6,325; in the superior courts, 338; in all, 6,663.

PART III.

Trade and Commerce.

Imports.

It will be found on reference to the returns of imports for the year 1875 that their value amounted to 13,490,200*l.* As compared with the previous year we have an increase of 2,196,461*l.*

Imports for the year from the United Kingdom were valued at 6,062,226*l.*, which figures are in excess of those for the previous year by 1,173,501*l.*

The value of imports from the Colony of Victoria was 2,066,156*l.*, viz.:—1,121,107*l.* by sea, and 945,049*l.* overland, the increase on the previous year being 717,094*l.*

From South Australia we received imports to the value of 987,933*l.*, the seaward traffic showing 721,701*l.*, and overland

266,232*l.* The Queensland imports amounted in value to 2,276,379*l.*, nearly the whole of which were received seaward, the increase on the previous year being 58,071*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

The value of Tasmanian imports for the year was 167,870*l.*, and of New Zealand 135,480*l.*

The total value, then, of imports from Australian Colonies and New Zealand amounted to 5,633,818*l.*, and from other British Colonies 867,252*l.*, in all 6,501,070*l.* The total increase in value of imports from all British Colonies is 1,077,810*l.*

The total value of exports for the year 1875 was 13,671,580*l.*, which figures show an increase of 1,325,977*l.* on the previous year. Exports.

Exports to the United Kingdom were of the value of 6,374,503*l.*, showing 637,437*l.* over the figures for the previous year.

Our exports to Victoria amounted in value to 4,269,770*l.* Of this sum the overland export trade absorbs 3,546,674*l.* The export of wool alone during the year amounted in value to 2,539,679*l.* No doubt the greater portion of this overland wool export simply passes through Victoria as the cheapest and most expeditious method of forwarding it either to England or some foreign market. In support of this opinion I may state that, on reference to Victorian statistics, I find that with 11,749,532 sheep the export of wool, the produce and manufacture of Victoria, is given at 63,656,335 lbs., while the export of wool, the produce and manufacture of New South Wales, with 24,382,536 sheep, only amounted to 87,534,280 lbs.

Our export trade with South Australia amounted in value to 654,232*l.*, with Queensland to 1,112,409*l.*, with Tasmania to 44,274*l.*, with New Zealand to 362,764*l.*, and with Western Australia to 861*l.* The total export trade with all the Australian Colonies and New Zealand was 6,444,310*l.*, and with other British Colonies 394,445*l.*; in all 6,838,755*l.* As compared with the previous year, there was an increase in value of exports to all British Colonies of 740,532*l.*

The value of exports to the United Kingdom exceeded the imports by 312,277*l.*, and to Victoria by 2,203,614*l.* The value of imports from South Australia exceeded the exports by 333,701*l.*, and from Queensland by 1,163,970*l.* The total excess of exports over imports to all British Colonies was 337,685*l.* The value of imports from foreign states exceeded exports by 468,582*l.* The general total value of exports over imports amounted to 181,380*l.* Imports and exports.

There were 2,376 vessels which entered the various ports of the Colony during the year 1875, showing an aggregate of 1,109,086 tons. The number to each port was as follows:—Sydney, 1,145, with 590,700 tons; Newcastle, 1,162, with 510,902 tons; Grafton, 16, with 2,180 tons; Richmond River, 28, with 3,813 tons; Tweed River, 25, with 1,491 tons. The increase in number and tonnage of inward bound vessels exceeded the figures of the previous year by 159 and 92,717 respectively. Shipping.

Vessels clearing at the various ports of the Colony during the

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year 1875 numbered 2,294, with an aggregate of 1,059,101 tons. The numbers and tonnage respectively from each were as follows :— Sydney, 863 and 468,423 ; Newcastle, 1,341 and 573,626; Grafton, 26 and 4,004; Tweed River, 23 and 1,365 ; Richmond River, 26 and 3,790 ; Eden, 15 and 7,893. The increase on the previous year in the number of outward-bound vessels was 126, and there was an excess of 84,576 in tonnage.

Shipbuilding during the year appears to have been making great advancement. The number of vessels built was 91, of an aggregate of 6,440 tons. These figures are an addition of 39 and 3,027 respectively to those of the previous year. There were also 130 vessels registered in the Colony during the year of an aggregate of 16,100 tons.

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

Mills.

The number of mills in the Colony employed in grinding and dressing grain was 161 as against 172 in the previons year. Steam power was used in 147 of these, of an aggregate of 2,289 horse-power, the residue being propelled by the aid of water or wind.

Manufactories.

There were 919 manufactories of various kinds, which will be found on page 144, grouped under six distinct heads. Machines, &c. in use numbered 8,825, which are also detailed in the same manner as manufactories.

From the return of woollens manufactured we find that eight mills were in operation during the year 1875, and that 354,700 yards of cloth and tweeds were the result. This industry shows a falling away in production of 104,180 yards.

The number of soap and candle manufactories was 32, the quantity of each commodity produced being 83,243 cwt. and 11,828 cwt. respectively. These figures are slightly in excess of those for the previous year.

The quantity of tobacco manufactured in the Colony was 14,002 cwt., the produce of 26 factories, being three more than shown in the returns for the previous year, yet the quantity produced was 978 cwt. less.

The return showing the number of sugar manufactories in the Colony, and whether worked by steam or other power, will be found on pages 148 and 149. The quantity of sugar manufactured appears to have diminished considerably as compared with the previous year, but this can be accounted for by the agricultural statistics, which show a large diminution in the area of cane cultivated. Sugar refineries also do not show so favourably as in the previous year, the business done amounting to 225,178 cwt., being 90,817 cwt. under the figures of the previous year.

Distilleries of colonial spirits show a production of 151,913 gallons of proof spirit from molasses. The increase under this head is 66,567 gallons.

PART V.

Production.

Gold received by escort.

The total quantity of gold received by escort from the gold fields of the Colony during the year 1875 was 201,779 ounces, valued at 767,829*l.* As compared with the year 1874 there was a decrease in quantitiy of 41,739 ounces, and in value of 166,569*l.* All the gold-bearing localities in the western district, except Stony Creek, Grenfell, and Parkes, show a smaller yield, and the total from this district is less by 38,855 ounces. The decrease in the quantity produced in the southern district is 476 ounces. The places in this district which show an increase are Adelong, Tumberumba, and Cooma. With the exception of Tamworth, all the gold fields in the northern district show a decrease, and there is a total decrease of 2,408 ounces.

Gold imported.

The quantity of gold imported into the Colony, seaward, was 347,068 ounces, of the value of 1,347,932*l.*

Coal.

The total output of coal from the various mines of the Colony during the year 1875 amounted to 1,253,475 tons, valued at 765,134*l.*, which gives an average of 12*s.* 2½*d.* per ton. There is a decrease in quantity on the returns for the year 1874 of 51,092 tons. This can be accounted for in some measure by the fact that returns have been received from 26 mines only as against 30 in the previous year, so that no doubt 4 mines must have been closed. The great deficit, however, will be found in the production of the Hartley and Wollongong mines, the former to the extent of 16,135 tons, and the latter 63,311 tons. The output of the New Wallsend Mine, Brisbane Water, receded from 20,000 to 4,380 tons. The Maitland mines show an increase of 8,167 tons, and those in the Newcastle district 36,777 tons.

Shale.

The quantity of shale raised decreased from 12,100 tons to 5,492 tons.

Copper and copper ore.

From the returns of copper and copper ore we find that there were 245 tons of the former, and 1,239 tons of the latter, the value of both being set down at 32,398*l.*

Tin ore.

From the tin-bearing districts it will be seen that 6,408 tons were obtained, the value of which is stated to be 221,922*l.*

Live stock.

By referring to the returns of live stock it will be found that they have been prepared in a more elaborate manner than heretofore. The usual subdivisions of police districts remain, but the number of each description of stock belonging to owners and occupiers of land under different tenures is now for the first time set forth. The total number of persons described as stockholders was 31,272. The number of horses in the Colony was 357,696, which gives an increase of 11,005 on the previous year. Horned cattle numbered 3,134,086 as against 2,856,699, showing an addition of 277,387 head of cattle to our herds. The number of sheep was 24,382,536, which is an increase of 1,509,654 on the figures for the year 1874.

Agriculture.

The agricultural returns are compiled in like manner as the live stock returns, showing the number of holders of land ex-

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Holdings.

ceeding one acre, with the extent of their holdings and other particulars as to crops, divided under the following heads:—Freeholders under conditional purchase (A); other Freeholders (B); Leaseholders of land conditionally purchased (C); other Leaseholders (D). The following short table distinguishes the number belonging to each of these classes, and the area of land occupied by them respectively:—

Number of Holders.		Extent of Land in Cultivation.	Area Enclosed not Cultivated.	Area Unenclosed.	Total.
		acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
A -	16,860	191,223½	2,465,868	2,078,421½	4,735,513
B -	11,453	137,591½	4,183,256¼	2,520,298¼	6,841,146
C -	1,392	16,037¾	252,865	283,779½	552,682¼
D -	7,279	106,286	869,079½	420,790¼	1,396,155¾
Total -	36,984	451,138¾	7,771,068¾	5,303,289½	13,525,497

Comparing these totals with the previous year, we find that there were 1,853 additional holders of land, that the area of land under cultivation was less by 13,819 acres, that the area of land enclosed not under cultivation had increased by 1,672,080 acres, and that the area of unenclosed land had been reduced by 276,923 acres.

Grain crops.

Passing on now to the various crops grown during the year we see that the area of land brought under the plough for wheat was 133,609 acres, from which the returns give a yield of 1,958,640 bushels, which gives an average of something near to 14¾ bushels to the acre. There is a decrease on the previous year in the area sown of 33,302 acres, and necessarily a falling away in quantity of 189,754 bushels.

The extent of land covered with maize was 117,582 acres, the produce of which was 3,410,517 bushels, the average yield per acre being 29 bushels. The area of land used for this crop shows a decrease of 854 acres.

Barley covered 4,817 acres, which yielded 98,576 bushels, or an average of 20½ bushels to the acre. Here we find an increased area in cultivation of 833 acres. There were 18,855 acres devoted to the growth of oats, the yield being 352,966 bushels, the average per acre being nearly 19 bushels. An extended area of 882 acres was used for the production of this cereal.

The area of land occupied with rye and millet was 918 acres for the former, and 149 acres for the latter, the production being 11,756 bushels and 2,593 bushels respectively.

Potatoes.

The cultivation of potatoes was carried out on 13,805 acres, which gave a return of 41,203 tons, and shows an average of close on 3 tons to the acre. There is an increase here of 201 acres in area and 2,639 tons in quantity.

Hay and green crops.

The area of land laid down for hay from wheat was 13,364 acres, from which 15,388 tons were obtained, showing an increase of 5,372 acres and 5,630 tons. Maize used as green food for

cattle occupied 2,309 acres. Hay made from barley was grown on 1,461 acres, and there were also 2,113 acres used for green food. The quantity of barley hay gathered was 1,633 tons. These figures show a small increase on those for the previous year. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The cultivation of oats for hay took up 52,098 acres, and there were 2,494 acres used for green food. This hay crop shows a weight of 54,238 tons as against 50,414 tons for the previous year. Millet to be used for green food was grown on 230 acres of land.

The total extent of land under sown grasses, which includes Lucerne, was 52,073 acres, viz. :—10,202 for hay and 4,187 acres for green food. We find a decrease in acreage of 2,337 acres for hay, and an increase of 8,663 acres for green food. The quantity of hay produced was 17,708 tons, showing a falling away of 14,192 tons on the returns of the previous year. Sown grasses.

The area used in tobacco culture was 491 acres, which shows a decrease of 48 acres when compared with the figures of the previous year. The weight of leaf obtained was 458,947 lbs., being a decrease of 220,702 lbs. Tobacco.

There were 6,454 acres of land covered with sugar-cane, of which total 3,654 acres are shown as productive, and 2,800 unproductive. The area of land under this crop had decreased by 2,086 acres. The quantity of cane grown amounted to 2,310,860 cwt. Sugar-cane.

Vineyards covered an area of 4,458 acres as against 4,308 acres in the previous year. The number of acres used for wine grapes was 3,163, the quantity of wine produced was 831,749 gallons, and also 2,747 gallons of brandy. The return further shows 637 acres on which vines were grown for fruit for table use, and 658 acres were unproductive. Vineyards.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

The general total value of coin and bullion in the possession of the Mint and various banks of the Colony on the 31st December 1875, was 2,705,008*l.* Of this amount 67,483*l.* was in the Mint, and the residue distributed among the banks. Coin and bullion.

The value of paper money in circulation on 31st December 1875, amounted 1,208,332*l.* Notes.

The return of the New South Wales Savings' Bank shows that the amount at credit of 30,158 depositors was 1,295,797*l.*, which is an increase of 19,895*l.* on the figures of the previous year. The number of depositors in the Sydney Bank increased from 22,631 to 23,191, and those in the country districts from 6,709 to 6,967. The rate of interest paid to depositors on amounts not exceeding 100*l.* was 5 per cent. per annum, and the rate charged to borrowers was 6 per cent. per annum. Savings' bank.

The number of Government savings' banks throughout the Colony on 31st December 1875, was 142, being 36 above the Government savings' banks.

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number at the same time of the previous year. The balances at the close of the year at credit of depositors amounted to 354,074*l.*, which is an addition of 50,961*l.* on the balances of the year 1874. The number of accounts open at the close of the year was 10,799, as against 8,276 at the same period of 1874. The accounts closed numbered 3,856, and there were 6,379 accounts opened during the year.

Gold received and issued at the Mint.

The total weight of gold received at the Branch Royal Mint during the year 1875 was 547,484 ounces, valued at 2,061,070*l.* Out of this total the Colony of Queensland supplied 297,441 ounces, and our own gold-fields 226,985 ounces. During the year 2,122,000 sovereigns were issued and 1,673 ounces of bullion. The revenue of the Mint was 13,565*l.*

Railways.

The railway returns show that the length of our lines was 437 miles as against 401 in the previous year. The number of passengers carried was 1,908,405. As compared with the previous year we have 369,362 additional passengers. The amount received on behalf of passenger traffic was 200,601*l.* A large increase is also found in the tonnage of goods traffic, the figures for which are 1,174,559 tons, for which the sum of 408,706*l.* was paid. The excess on the previous year in weight of goods carried was 98,491 tons, and the revenue under this head shows an increase of 60,726*l.* The total amount of receipts from all sources was 614,647*l.* as against 536,575*l.* in the year 1874. Deducting working expenses, which amounted to 296,174*l.* we have total net receipts of 318,473*l.*

Telegraphs.

There were 136 telegraph stations throughout the Colony, not including those established in the suburbs of Sydney. The number of messages transmitted during the year amounted to 719,745, the increase on the previous year being 149,419, which brought up the general total receipts from 59,820*l.* to 69,193*l.* The number of miles of wire was 8,012, constructed at a cost of 253,391*l.*

Post offices.

A large increase in business is to be noticed under the head of post offices; their number had increased from 681 in 1874, to 752 in 1875. The staff employed shows an increase of 109 persons, the figures being 967 as against 858. The total number of letters despatched was 13,717,900, the increase being 2,597,800. Out of the total number of letters forwarded, 1,719,100 were foreign, 9,540,900 were inland, and 2,457,900 were town. Newspapers and packets sent through the post numbered 6,262,600 and 357,000 respectively. The number of foreign newspapers was 1,385,900, and of inland 4,876,700. The income arising from post offices for the year amounted to 107,761, and the expenditure, including estimated outstanding liabilities, 194,041*l.*

Money orders.

The number of money orders issued during the year was 100,293, representing 419,622*l.* The number of offices in the Colony was 238, and the revenue received as commission amounted to 4,224*l.* Return No. 142, on page 220, gives the number and

amount of orders issued in New South Wales during the year, and the places at which they were made payable; also orders paid in New South Wales, and the places at which they were originally issued. NEW SOUTH WALES

The total outlay of moneys from the revenues of the Colony on account of immigration for the year 1875 was 14,962. In this amount is included gratuities to surgeon superintendents and others, also salaries and lodging of immigrants on arrival, &c. The cost per head of introducing immigrants was over 15*l.* Immigration.

Under the head of military and naval services we find that the sum of 66,962*l.* was expended. Fortifications, gunpowder magazines, and repairs to buildings absorbed 36,903*l.*, and the balance was appropriated to permanent and Volunteer Military Forces, and Naval Brigade, &c, Military.

The return for 74 boroughs and municipal districts shows that there were 44 of the former and 30 of the latter. The amount of rate imposed on boroughs seems to be a uniform one of 1*s.* in the pound, except in a few instances where an extra threepence or fourpence in the pound was raised as a gas rate. The total revenue by rates in boroughs during the year 1875 amounted to 52,032*l.*, which with 13,350*l.* provided by Government, made a total of 65,382*l.* of what may be termed revenue proper. Some of the boroughs contracted loans to the amount of 11,543*l.* The sum of 9,569*l.* was used in office expenses and salaries, showing that over 14 per cent. of revenue was absorbed in this manner. The rate imposed by municipal districts was in every instance 1*s.* in the pound on estimated annual value. The revenue obtained amounted to 14,601*l.*, supplemented by 10,098*l.* from the Government, making a total of 24,699*l.* of revenue. Office expenses and salaries came to 16 per cent. of revenue. Municipalities.

PART VII.

Miscellaneous.

The amount of money expended during the year 1875 on lines of railway open for traffic was 131,651*l.*, and the expenditure during the same period on extensions not open for traffic amounted to 440,244*l.* Public works.

The total expended to 31st December 1875, on unfinished lines of railway was 2,584,375*l.* On the roads and bridges of the Colony a sum of 338,846*l.* was spent during the year. Under the head of harbours and rivers, and the miscellaneous services in connexion therewith, we find a sum total of 222,914*l.* for the year. The amount expended on public buildings under the immediate superintendence of the Government was 142,598*l.* This amount is exclusive of 9,275*l.* for furniture during the year. The amount expended on all the public works of the Colony during the year 1875 is as follows:—

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	£
Railways - - - -	571,895
Electric telegraphs - -	15,262
Roads and bridges -	288,806
Harbours and rivers -	222,914
Public buildings - - -	142,598
	1,241,475

In addition to this total, the sum of 50,040*l.* was issued to trustees for minor and subordinate roads, and the sum of 74,803*l.* was expended on works, &c. not under the immediate superintendence of the Government.

Meteorology. The Sydney returns on meteorology show that the highest mean shade temperature of the year was 84·3, and the lowest 48·9. The highest reading of the thermometer in the shade was 98·9, and the lowest 40·3. During the year there were 153 days on which rain fell. The total fall of rain for the year was over 46 inches, which is six inches less than the average rainfall for the preceding 16 years.

Real and leasehold estates. An increase is again to be noticed in the number and amount of transactions in real and leasehold estates. During the year 1875 there were 7,567 deeds registered, representing an aggregate of 3,390,391*l.*; and there were also 245 leases exceeding three years duration registered, and 1,225 miscellaneous deeds; so that the total number of deeds registered was 9,037.

Liens on wool. The number of liens on wool registered during the year was 686, which secured the sum of 674,747*l.* on the clip of 4,197,853 sheep. These figures are the highest recorded for any year of the decade.

Mortgages on live stock. This description of mortgages registered numbered 749, the security afforded being 2,844,740 sheep, 199,031 cattle, and 7,290 horses, the total sum advanced being 2,008,970*l.* These figures are also in excess of those for any year of the decade. The number of discharges registered was 182, representing the sum of 992,780*l.*

Real Property Act (26 Vict. No. 9). During the year 1875 there were 256 applications received for certificates of title. In the year 1866 these applications numbered 379, which number decreased yearly until the years 1873 and 1874, when there was a slight reaction. The number for the year under consideration is 32 less than for the previous year. The progress in the business under this Act, of dealing with land for which certificates of title or crown grants had been issued, has been very satisfactory. The decennial table shows that 10 years since, the fees for the year for registering certificates and other dealings amounted to 1,305*l.*, while for the year 1875 the sum of 5,138*l.* was obtained, being 1,681*l.* in excess of the figures for 1874. The total amount paid into consolidated revenue by the Registrar-General during the year 1875, on account of registrations of real and leasehold estate, liens on wool, mortgages of live stock,

Real Property Act, &c. &c., was 10,020*l.*, a sum more than sufficient to meet the expenditure voted by Parliament for the expenses of the department in Sydney. The number of Crown grants issued and registered under the Real Property Act during the year 1875 was 9,830, a number considerably more than double that for any year of the decade. The area of land alienated by these grants was 834,956 acres, for which the sum of 848,883*l.* was paid. NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were 500 insolvencies during the year 1875, of which 462 were voluntary and 38 compulsory. The amount of liabilities disclosed by insolvents' schedules was 536,440*l.*, and the assets are set down at 172,181*l.*, the difference between these two sums being 364.259*l.* These figures are largely in excess of those for the previous year. Insolvencies.

The business done under the head of miners' rights, mineral and business licenses was as follows:—Miners' rights, 1,027; mineral licenses, 185; business licenses, 706. Comparing these figures with those of the previous year, we find a large decrease in the number of miners' rights and licenses issued, and a small increase in business licenses. Miners' rights and licenses.

Machinery used for alluvial workings comprised 23 steam-engines, of an aggregate of 275 horse-power. The number of other appliances in use was as follows:—Puddling machines, 259; whims and pulleys, 29; whips, 497; sluices and tons, 455; water-wheels, 110; hydraulic hoses, 20; pumps, 368; sluice boxes, 931; stamp heads, 60. There were also 115 steam-engines employed in quartz mining, of an aggregate of 1,677 horse-power. Other description of machinery was as follows:—Crushing machines, 132; stamp heads, 1,292; whims and pulleys, 70; water-wheels, 21; derricks, 9; whips 30. Gold mining machinery.

The number of publicans' licenses issued in the Colony during the year 1875 was 2,630, as against 2,537 in the previous year, showing an increase of 93—nearly one half of which number was issued in the city and suburbs. Publicans' licenses.

The total number of the New South Wales Artillery, excluding general staff, was 103; and the total strength of the volunteer corps, excluding general staff and head quarters' band, was 4,574 members. Their distribution was as follows:—Artillery, 739; rifles, 2,261; cadet corps, 1,574. The total strength of the naval brigade was 329 men. Military and volunteer forces.

The return of lands sold, otherwise than conditionally, during the year 1875, shows that the total area alienated was 1,135,274 acres, for which the sum of 1,171,938*l.* was obtained, which, with a further sum of 2,155 representing forfeited deposits, makes a total of 1,174,093. This amount is larger than any recorded as received in any year of the decade. Land sales.

The figures for lands conditionally purchased during the year are as follows:—Number of selections, 14,517; area, 1,756,678 acres; amount realised for deposits, 439,170*l.*; for balance of purchase money, 58,647*l.*; for interest, 75,919*l.*, in all a gross

NEW SOUTH WALES.

amount of 573,575*l.* These figures are also in excess of those for any previous year. The total amount actually received in the year, inclusive of conditional purchases and interest on same, was 1,760,570*l.*

Leasehold lands.

The number of five years' leases issued during the year for pastoral purposes was 4,219, comprising an area of 215,643 square miles, for which an annual rental of 182,487 was payable. There were also 16,520 annual leases issued, with an area of 17,076 square miles and rental of 35,787*l.* The total area comprised under both descriptions of lease was 232,719 square miles, and the total rent payable amounted to 218,274. The total revenue from lands and gold fields for the year 1875 was as follows:—

		£
Total receipts	Under Lands Alienation Act -	1,569,129
	" " Occupation Act -	218,274
	" Gold Fields Act -	35,331
	Miscellaneous - -	25,532
		1,848,266

The total increase which this amount shows on the figures for the previous year amounts to 393,084*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. G. WARD,
Registrar-General.

Statistical View of the Progress of the Colony of New South Wales from the Year 1866 to 1875 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Committments for trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	No. of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount realized.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1866	431,412	16,950	3,462	7,361	1,155	59,594	1,255	770	159	2,389	451,225¼	278,437	1,771,809	11,562,155	137,915	774,238	324,049	109,177 †358,652	261,590
1867	447,620	18,317	3,426	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,180	702	188	2,274	413,164	280,201	1,728,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	342,655	119,044 †232,176	264,660
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756¼	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	149,945 †239,516	265,250
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	164,890 †397,328	319,613
1870	502,861	19,648	3,848	6,558	1,381	74,503	1,037	601	187	6,862	426,976	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066	868,564	316,836	94,373 †329,318	250,843
1871	519,182*	20,143	3,953	6,407	1,450	77,889	1,084	628	190	6,827	417,801	304,100	2,014,888	16,278,697	213,193	898,784	316,340	88,637 †358,682	261,401
1872	539,190	20,250	3,925	7,468	1,464	106,691	1,073	643	188	7,769	454,634	328,408	2,287,660	17,560,048	218,904	1,012,426	396,198	166,834 †749,586	432,373
1873	560,275	21,444	4,384	7,611	1,508	110,287	1,166	647	182	8,268	456,825	334,462	2,794,327	20,501,506	240,680	1,192,862	665,747	389,200 †1391719	845,410
1874	584,278	22,178	4,313	8,652	1,547	119,133	1,311	700	172	9,241	464,957	346,691	2,856,699	22,872,882	219,958	1,304,567	790,225	702,758 †1586282	1,111,041
1875	606,652	22,528	4,605	10,771	1,586	124,756	1,245	707	161	9,744	451,138¾	357,696	3,134,086	24,382,536	199,950	1,253,475	765,133	1,135,274 †1756678	1,760,570

* The census was taken in 1821, 2, 3, 5, 8 33, 6; population as above.

2nd March 1841,	population 130,856	1st March 1856,	population 266,189
2nd March 1846,	„ 189,609	7th April 1861,	„ 350,860
1st March 1851,	„ 187,243	2nd April 1871,	„ 503,981

The population from the year 1836 is estimated up to the end of each year.

† Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."

Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per Acre.

The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840–2. (20*s.* in Port Phillip in 1841). 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.

In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money, generally in Spanish dollars.

Transportation ceased in 1840.

The return of the revenue and expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military.

Gold discovered in May 1851.

The loans expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES from the Year 1866 to 1875 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the produce of the Colony.*									Value of Total Imports.*	Value of Total Exports.*	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.†		Coal.							
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866	2,099	730,354	2,259	784,381	36,980,685‡	2,830,348‡	27,726	51,826	285	751,700	2,924,891	540,905	300,588	9,403,192‡	9,913,839‡	2,833,459§	419,720	2,125,414§	887,157
1867	1,868	646,970	2,104	726,721	21,708,902	1,711,322	37,211	63,648	369	660,619	2,586,044	473,357	253,259	6,599,804	6,880,715	2,034,490§	534,966	2,249,521§	686,112
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700§	1,617,112	2,646,303§	640,536
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672‡	3,162,522‡	96,667	167,536	4,515	641,069	2,489,145	595,553	298,195	8,392,753‡	9,333,442‡	2,590,217§	1,073,292	2,649,329§	616,476
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942	47,440,610‡	2,741,141‡	134,262	223,787	3,674	410,547	1,585,736	578,389	267,681	7,757,281‡	7,990,038‡	2,490,203§	85,106	2,638,264§	660,089
1871	1,891	706,019	2,123	794,460	65,611,953‡	4,748,160‡	150,452	245,727	1,275	535,492	2,074,937	565,429	256,690	9,609,508‡	11,245,032‡	2,908,153‖	1,380,709	3,006,576‖	595,923
1872	2,011	774,490	2,091	813,550	50,233,453‡	3,342,900‡	105,233	176,798	401	543,197	2,110,299	669,110	307,861	9,208,496‡	10,447,049‡	3,592,979‖	568,436	2,986,186‖	652,437
1873	2,161	874,804	2,212	887,674	31,606,846	2,201,910	66,504	106,138	1,977	665,676	2,590,145	773,079	526,089	10,471,483	9,387,873	3,937,410‖	217,270	2,333,166‖	427,286
1874	2,217	1,016,369	2,168	974,525	75,156,924‡	5,010,125‡	63,348	99,649	3,257	482,076	1,874,837	872,980	632,247	11,293,739‡	12,345,603‡	4,664,568‖	365,560	4,426,040‖	575,732
1875	2,376	1,109,086	2,294	1,059,101	87,534,280	5,651,643	65,641	106,285	1,327	538,752	2,109,654	927,007	671,483	13,490,200‡	13,671,580‡	5,989,697‖	902,358	5,117,903‖	1,255,224

* Exclusive of the overland traffic.
† Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies and converted into bars and coin.
‡ Inclusive of the overland traffic.
§ The revenue and expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.
‖ Includes Trust Fund, Treasury Bills, &c.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

STATISTICAL SKETCH of SOUTH AUSTRALIA by JOSIAH BOOTHBY, Esq., J.P., Under Secretary and Government Statist. Received July 10th 1877.

CONTENTS.

Geographical Position.—General Government.—Local Government.—Population: Distribution; Birth-places; Conjugal condition; Occupation; Religions of the People; Education.—Births, Marriages, and Deaths.—Immigration and Emigration.—Public Education and Educational Institutes.—Public Worship.—Charitable Institutions.—Administration of Justice.—Land Transfer, Liens, Mortgages, &c.—Revenue and Expenditure.—Loans for Public Works.—Banking.—Savings Banks.—Land and its Occupation: Agriculture; Pastoral Occupation.—Manufactures.—Import and Export Trade.—Staple Products: Breadstuffs; Wool; Copper; Miscellaneous Products.—Shipping.—River Murray Trade.—Railways.—Roads.—Waterworks.—Postal Communication.—Telegraphs.—Rates of Wages.—Prices of Provisions, &c.—Meteorological.—Conclusion.

The following paragraphs furnish a statement of facts, based upon official records, showing the present position of South Australia, and the progress made from time to time since her colonisation in 1836—not 40 years ago. Exhaustless natural resources, a salubrious climate, indomitable industry and enterprise in her people, and a freedom and stability in her institutions, have together placed South Australia in the high rank she occupies amongst the dependencies of the British Crown.

Geographical Position.

That portion of the continent of Australia bounded on the east by the 141st degree of east longitude, on the north by the 26th degree of south latitude, on the west by the 132nd degree of east longitude, and on the south by the Southern Ocean, was constituted a British Province by Act of Parliament 4 & 5 Will. IV. c. 95., under the designation South Australia. The area contained within those limits is estimated to be 300,000 square miles, or 192,000,000 acres, nearly twice and a half that of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1861 the territory known as "No Man's Land," about 80,000 square miles, lying between the boundaries of South and Western Australia, was added by Act 24 & 25 Vict. c. 44., making the western boundary the 129th degree of east longitude.

All the country north of the 26th parallel of south latitude, between the 129th and 138th degrees of east longitude, has also been annexed to South Australia, and is known as the Northern Territory. The present northern boundary is the Indian Ocean, latitude 11° S.; the southern boundary the Southern Ocean, in

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latitude 38° S. The Province of South Australia covers 27 degrees of latitude and 12 degrees of longitude, forming at present the largest British Colony—the area extending over more than 900,000 square miles.

The northern coast-line included in the before-mentioned limits, starting from the 138th degree of east longitude, about 120 miles west of the Albert River, comprises the western shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria, trending northward to Cape Arnheim; thence west to Port Essington (latitude 11° S.), thence south-west across Van Diemen's Gulf, into which the Adelaide River (Stuart's furthest) flows, opposite Melville Island; and thence to longitude 129° E., Cambridge Gulf, into which, about 100 miles within the boundary, the Victoria River flows. The western boundary is in the 129th degree of east longitude, running from Cambridge Gulf to a point west of the head of the Great Australian Bight, in latitude 32° S., whilst the eastern boundary runs northerly on the 141st degree of east longitude to latitude 26° S., thence west to longitude 138° E., thence north to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The southern coast-line extends from latitude 38° S., longitude 141° E., to latitude 31° 45′ S., longitude 129° E., and from its peculiar configuration presents a sea-board of over 2,000 miles in length. Between the eastern boundary, near Cape Northumberland, and Encounter Bay, west of the mouth of the River Murray, the coast is generally low and sandy. There are, however, excellent shipping places available for large vessels—among them Port Victor, Lacepede Bay, Guichen Bay, Rivoli Bay, and Port MacDonnell. Westward of Spencer's Gulf is a succession of secure harbours, several of large extent, and with good anchorage for ships of considerable tonnage. Port Lincoln, Smoky, Denial, Venus, Streaky, and Fowler's Bays are important shipping places to the westward.

The coast-line is also deeply indented by two large gulfs, the eastern, St. Vincent's Gulf, running inland to the northward for 85 miles, and the larger, Spencer's Gulf, running N.N.E. towards the heart of the Colony for 180 miles. These gulfs have a mean breadth of 30 and 50 miles respectively, and both taper towards their northern ends. St. Vincent's Gulf is sheltered by Kangaroo Island, 90 miles in length, which lies to the southward of it, leaving two fine entrances, one from the westward through Investigator's Straits, 28 miles broad, and the other from the eastward through Backstairs Passage, 8 miles in width.

The principal agricultural and mineral districts of the Colony are contiguous to the two gulfs, the shores of which are 780 miles in length, the greater part being entirely protected from the ocean swell. Numerous outports and shipping places, of which there are over 50, enable settlers to ship their produce at a very small cost. These gulfs are divided by Yorke's Peninsula, some 120 miles long and 20 miles broad, having large tracts of wheat-growing land, and the principal seat of mining industry.

Situate on the eastern side of St. Vincent's Gulf are the following ports:—Ports Adelaide, Glenelg, Wakefield, Willunga,

Noarlunga, and Yankalilla; and on the west, or peninsula side, shipping places at Edithburg, Stansbury, and Ardrossan. The eastern side of Spencer's Gulf is supplied by Ports Moonta, Wallaroo, Broughton, Pirie, and Port Augusta at the head of the gulf, while Franklin Harbour, Tunby Bay, and Port Lincoln are on the western side of the same gulf.

A mountain range commences at Cape Jervis, at the eastern entrance to Gulf St. Vincent, and extends in a northerly direction, averaging some 30 miles in breadth, and dividing the waters flowing eastwards into the River Murray and lakes, and westwards into the gulf. The highest point is Mount Lofty, after which the range is named, having an elevation of 2,334 feet above sea-level. Descending rapidly on the western side, marked by numerous glens and valleys for about three miles, it declines gently over the extensive Adelaide Plains for five miles, to the capital, from thence a plain of six miles (almost level) stretches to the sea-coast.

Opposite the north end of the gulf the range separates into parallel ridges, divided by fertile plains of an average width of eight miles.

On the eastern side of Spencer's Gulf, and about 10 miles from its shore, the Hummocks and Flinders Ranges rise to a considerable height, Mounts Remarkable, Brown, and Arden, and other points being about 3,000 feet above the level of the sea. From the head of the gulf the range sweeps easterly and then northerly, and forms a chain of hills extending to latitude 29° 30′. This chain, however, separates into distinct ridges, with wide valleys, generally north and south, intervening. In the south-eastern portion of the Colony there are several volcanic craters, Mounts Gambier and Schanck being the most remarkable; the former being 900 feet high, and having at its base soil of the richest description. Throughout the remainder of the district are low ridges parallel to the coast, with intervening swamps and plains.

Adelaide, the capital of the Province, is situate about five miles from the eastern shore of St. Vincent's Gulf, in latitude 34° 57′ S. and longitude 138° 38′ E., and Port Adelaide, the principal port, is about 7 miles north-west from the city, and connected therewith by rail.

General Government.

The Constitution granted to South Australia by Her Majesty, by virtue of Imperial Act 13 & 14 Vict. c. 59., was proclaimed on the 24th October 1856, on which day the Queen's assent to the Constitution Act, No. 2 of 1855–6, was received in the Colony. Under that statute the Parliament consists of two Houses the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, the former being composed of 18 members, and the latter, at that time, of 36. In 1873 the electoral districts of the House of Assembly were increased from 18 to 22, and the number of members from 36 to 46.

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The Legislative Council, which cannot be dissolved by the Governor, is elected by ballot, the whole Province forming one electoral district for that purpose. Each member is elected for 12 years, and every four years the six members who have been longest on the roll of the Council retire. The qualification for a member of the Legislative Council is that he shall have attained the age of 30 years, that he is a subject of the Queen, and that he has resided in the Province for three years. The qualification of a voter for this branch of the Legislature is that he shall be 21 years of age, a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, and have been on the electoral roll for a period of six months. He must also either be possessed of a freehold of the value of 50*l.*, or of a leasehold of the annual value of 20*l.* having three years to run, or with right of purchase ; or be in occupation of a dwelling-house of the annual rent value of 25*l.* The constitution of the Legislative Council is unaltered by the late amendment of the Electoral Act. The total number of voters for the Legislative Council is 18,445, or 40 per cent. of the adult male population.

The House of Assembly, which is liable to dissolution by the Governor, is elected for three years; and of the 22 districts re-represented in it three return three members each, 18 two members each, and the other returns one member only. The Constitution Act prescribes no other qualification as necessary for a member of the House of Assembly than that he shall be an elector. An elector's qualification to vote is that he shall be of full age, and have been six months on the electoral roll. The total number of electors on the roll for the Assembly is 34,404, or 75 per cent. of the adult male population.

Responsible Government is carried on by six ministers, members of the Legislature, who form the Cabinet, and who are *ex officio* members of the Executive Council, advising the Crown, in the person of Her Majesty's representative, his Excellency the Governor of the Province.

The following are the titles of the ministerial officers, viz. :— Chief Secretary, Attorney-General, Treasurer, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration, Commissioner of Public Works, and Minister of Agriculture and Education. Each minister has control over several departments of the public service, the duties of which are conducted by permanent official heads.

Local Government.

Local self-government was established in South Australia as far back as 1840, in which year the Corporation of Adelaide was constituted ; but elective municipal institutions only became general during the administration of Sir Henry Young. Most beneficial results have flowed from the adoption of the principle. Under it the people have been taught the lesson of self-reliance, and have cheerfully taxed themselves for the prosecution of public works of general utility, over which the local authorities—a board of from five to seven members elected by and from the ratepayers

of the district—exercise control. Although the State supplements pound for pound all sums raised and expended on public works in the district, the Council have in their hands the entire management of such expenditure, and of all municipal affairs. Without such Councils it would have been difficult to introduce into sparsely populated and unsettled districts many of the social and political advantages now enjoyed by people resident at considerable distances from the seat of government.

Corporations have been established in the principal centres of population to the number of 16, and 90 district councils constituted throughout the settled districts. The total annual rateable value of property is 1,045,711*l.*, of which 391,929*l.* is within the limits of municipal corporations, and 653,782*l.* is within the boundaries of district councils. The usual rate declared upon the assessment is 1*s.* in the pound sterling. The total revenue of these local bodies in 1874 was 125,351*l.*, and the amount expended on works of permanent utility 80,945*l.*

The following return of the aggregate assessments and receipts of the several municipal corporations and district councils, and the amount expended on local improvements, affords a reliable index of the steady settlement of the country during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Rateable Annual Value.	Receipts.	Expended on Local Improvement.
	£	£	£
1865 - -	684,095	75,296	43,185
1870 - -	920,951	86,499	72,865
1874 - -	1,045,711	125,351	80,944

Of the total municipal income, about one-fifth was contributed by the State in the shape of grants, and the expenditure on local improvements of a permanent character was two-thirds of the total receipts.

Population.

Inhabitants.—The population of South Australia at the close of 1875 was estimated to be 210,442 souls. The last census was taken on 2nd April 1871, on the same day and in the same manner as those of Great Britain and her other Australian Colonies. A general idea of the social condition of the people at the present time may be gathered from a review of the chief points then inquired into, bearing in mind the fact that whilst the number of the population has increased by one-third, a more than proportionate advance has been made in industrial progress, material wealth, and social prosperity. Altogether seven enumerations have taken place since the establishment of the Colony,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

latterly at intervals of five years, as shown in the following table :—

Date of Enumeration.	Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1844, February 26 - - -	9,526	7,840	17,366
1846, February 26 - - -	12,670	9,720	20,390
1851, January 1 - - -	35,302	28,398	63,700
1855, March 31 - - -	43,720	42,101	85,821
1861, April 8 - - - -	65,048	61,782	126,830
1866, March 26 - - - -	85,334	78,118	163,452
1871, April 2 - - - -	95,408	90,218	185,626
1875, December 31 (estimated) -	107,944	102,498	210,442

In the foregoing table the aborigines are not included. At the census of 1871 they numbered 3,369, so far as could be ascertained.

It will be observed that during the last 10 years there has been a numerical increase of population to the extent of 46,990, or nearly one-third. The total population enumerated in 1871 was 185,626, of which 95,804 were male, and 90,218 females. The number at the close of 1875 is estimated, as before said, to be 210,442, namely, 107,944 males and 102,498 females. So close an approximation to equality in the numbers of the sexes is highly satisfactory, and testifies to the settled character of the people.

Distribution.—One of the most important facts brought out by the census is the way in which the population is distributed throughout the country. A frequent review of the movements of the people is essential to the carrying on of the duties of government in a country where settlement advances so rapidly that centres of population arise where but a few years before sheep only depastured.

The returns under this head are exceedingly satisfactory, as showing that 85 per cent. of the whole number of the people are resident in the country districts, and employed directly or indirectly in the cultivation of the soil, or in the production of mineral and pastoral wealth. Since 1861 the residents in the city have increased from 18,303 to 27,208, or by 48 per cent. During the same 10 years the settlers in the country districts have increased from 108,527 to 158,413, or by 46 per cent.

The table on page 7 shows the number of inhabitants, the number of males and females, the number of houses, and the number of adult males in each county, and in the Province, at the date of the census of 1861 and of 1871.

In a country where so large a proportion of the people is engaged in agricultural and kindred pursuits, population must be widely distributed. There are, however, in addition to the

city of Adelaide, with a present population of over 30,000 (exclusive of suburbs, which may be computed at as many more) other populous townships, viz., Kensington and Norwood, with 5,132 inhabitants; Moonta, 4,775; Hindmarsh, 3,221; Port Adelaide, 2,482; Kapunda, 2,273; Wallaroo, 1,983; Kadina, 1,855; Gawler, 1,652; Gambierton, 1,604; Kooringa, 1,561; Glenelg, 1,324; and Clare, 1,004. There are 20 townships with between 500 and 1,000, and 60 with between 200 and 500, and some 150 villages with an average of less than 200 inhabitants.

Birthplaces. — The returns showing the birthplaces of the people indicate a steady increase in the number of the South Australian born and of British birth, as well as, in a lesser degree, of those from British possessions other than the United Kingdom. The native-born element, of course, preponderates, forming 55 per cent. of the population; the next largest class being persons of English birth, who form 25 per cent. Ireland has contributed 8 per cent., and Germany and Scotland each 4·5 per cent. The proportion of males and females in the settled districts is about equal. There are more English men than English women, and more Irish women than Irish men. Out of 8,309 Germans, 4,681 are males and 3,628 females. Of the 185,626 enumerated in 1871, 102,676 were native born, 46,752 were of English birth, 14,255 came from Ireland, 8,309 from Germany, 8,167 from Scotland, 3,469 from other British possessions, and 1,356 from other foreign States. The children of German and other Colonists from foreign countries are returned as South Australians.

Counties and Pastoral Districts.	Persons.		Males.		Females.		Houses.		Adult Males.	
	1861.	1871.	1861.	1871.	1861.	1871.	1861.	1871.	1861.	1871.
Counties—										
Adelaide	66,238	85,593	32,075	41,454	34,163	44,139	15,292	18,600	14,365	18,318
Gawler	3,784	8,660	1,959	4,715	1,825	3,945	874	1,658	846	2,101
Light	14,980	20,019	7,835	10,329	7,145	9,690	3,036	3,811	3,574	4,546
Stanley	4,835	9,785	2,506	5,301	2,329	4,484	924	1,818	1,130	2,407
Victoria	538	818	320	515	218	303	174	159	200	279
Daly	1,232	12,353	863	6,510	369	5,843	342	2,574	591	2,864
Fergusson	—	576	—	377	—	199	—	122	—	221
Frome	989	1,839	550	939	439	900	273	331	335	438
Hindmarsh	12,502	13,562	6,457	6,857	6,045	6,705	2,542	2,759	2,712	2,651
Sturt	4,546	5,730	2,403	2,942	2,143	2,788	888	1,103	1,015	1,139
Eyre	1,097	2,332	595	1,275	502	1,057	232	457	265	546
Burra	5,483	3,401	2,882	1,750	2,601	1,651	1,225	877	1,348	777
Young	52	80	30	40	22	40	10	14	22	23
Hamley	—	72	—	52	—	20	—	15	—	31
Albert	69	75	42	43	27	32	17	15	19	23
Alfred	—	72	—	47	—	25	—	10	—	26
Russell	257	793	154	457	103	336	60	136	82	211
Cardwell	—	109	—	72	—	37	—	26	—	39
Buckingham	—	228	—	122	—	106	—	42	—	58
MacDonnell	652	779	416	460	236	319	136	184	253	258
Robe	1,477	2,407	816	1,371	661	1,036	250	452	462	672
Grey	3,337	9,445	1,870	5,037	1,467	4,408	610	1,816	1,018	2,346
Flinders	758	1,551	434	823	324	728	217	305	234	369
Total of counties	122,826	180,279	62,207	91,488	60,619	88,791	27,102	37,284	28,471	40,343
Pastoral districts	3,376	4,584	2,285	3,218	1,091	1,366	802	1,032	1,430	2,212
Shipping	628	562	556	530	72	32	—	—	476	423
Northern territory	—	201	—	172	—	29	—	17	—	146
Grand total of South Australia	126,830	185,626	65,048	95,408	61,782	90,218	27,904	38,333	30,377	43,124

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Conjugal Condition. — With reference to the conjugal state, there were, in 1871, 30,002 married males and 30,029 married females. Married women exceed in number the married men in towns, and the reverse is the case in the country districts, where also bachelors predominate. The proportion of bachelors to spinsters at marriageable ages (all above 15), is as 21 to 15, but of adults as 11 to 5. The following table shows the number of married, unmarried, and widowed persons, males and females, of the age of 15 and upwards:—

		Number.
Ummarried	Bachelors - -	21,638
	Spinsters - -	15,179
Married	Husbands - -	30,002
	Wives - -	30,029
Widowed	Widowers - -	1,571
	Widows - -	3,521

Ages.—The proportion in which the number of males and females at the under-mentioned periods of age stood to the total of the Province is as follows:—

Ages.	The Colony.			City of Adelaide.			Rural Pastoral Districts and Shipping.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
All ages - - -	185,626	95,408	90,218	27,208	12,699	14,509	158,418	82,709	75,709
Under 5 - -	31,450	15,920	15,530	3,992	1,983	2,009	27,458	13,937	13,521
5 and under 15 -	52,237	26,277	25,960	6,950	3,340	3,610	46,287	22,937	22,350
15 and under 21 -	20,625	10,088	10,537	3,249	1,350	1,899	17,376	8,738	8,638
21 and upwards -	81,141	43,003	38,138	12,997	6,012	6,985	68,144	36,991	31,153

From the above statement it will be seen that in a population of 185,626 souls, 17 per cent. were infants under 5, 28 per cent. were children under 15, 12 per cent. youths, and the remaining 43 per cent. of the whole number were adults.

Taking the number of persons between the ages of 15 and 65, viz., 98,365, as fairly representing the class upon whom devolves the duty of sustaining the extreme youth and the bulk of the old age of the country, it will be seen that such class forms 53 per cent. of the whole population. The man power—that is, all males of 15 years and upwards—numbers 51, 271, or but 28 per cent. of the whole people; being 3 per cent. below the proportion in 1861.

Occupation.—Very full information with regard to the occupations of the people has been obtained at each census, and no returns can be more practically useful than those which show in what direction the labour of the country is chiefly employed. The following classification shows the number under each head in 1871:—

Occupations.	The Province.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Class.			
I. Persons engaged in the general and local Government of the Colony, police, &c. -	1,495	1,482	13
II. Professional: persons in the learned professions (with their immediate subordinates) not in the Government service - -	645	644	1
III. Professional: persons engaged in literature, fine arts, and sciences - - -	1,575	765	810
IV. Trading: persons who buy, sell, keep or lend money on goods - - - -	4,301	3,960	341
V. Personal offices: persons engaged in entertaining, clothing, and performing personal offices for man - - - -	10,802	2,712	8,090
VI. Manufacturing: persons engaged in art and mechanical productions, and in working and dealing in mineral, vegetable, and animal matters - - - -	7,849	7,842	7
VII. Mining: persons engaged in - -	3,338	3,338	—
VIII. Agricultural, horticultural, and pastoral: persons working land and engaged in growing grain, fruit, animals, and other products - - - - -	24,224	23,606	618
IX. Carrying: persons engaged in the conveyance of men and goods - - -	2,917	2,915	2
X. Persons dealing in food and drinks - -	1,732	1,672	60
XI. Miscellaneous pursuits: persons engaged in occupations not embraced in other classes	6,060	5,919	141
XII. Independent means: persons of property or rank not returned under any office or occupation - - - -	543	368	175
XIII. Persons engaged in domestic offices or duties, and of no specified occupation, scholars, &c. - - - -	117,766	38,262	79,504
XIV. Persons maintained at public cost or by the community - - - -	944	620	324
XV. Persons whose pursuits have not been specified, or were unemployed, &c. - -	1,435	1,303	132
Total of the population - -	185,626	95,408	90,218

Agricultural, pastoral, and horticultural pursuits are those upon which the labour of the majority of the industrial population is bestowed, the number actually engaged therein being 24,224, or 43 per cent. of the specified occupations of males.

Mining is the next prominent branch of industry. Its importance cannot be judged of by the comparatively small number of persons returned as directly engaged in it. The great extent and richness of our mineral properties afford profitable employment to large numbers of artisans, mechanics, and others, who are returned under the headings "Trades" and "Manufactures," but who are in fact dependent upon the prosecution of mining industry. The total number of miners was 3,338 in 1871, 1,504 in 1861, and 840 in 1855.

The next most important class of manufacturers, persons engaged in art and mechanical productions and working and dealing

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in mineral, vegetable, and animal matters, numbers 7,849, of whom only seven are females.

The next class in point of importance are persons, chiefly females, engaged in entertaining, clothing, and performing personal offices for man, numbering altogether 10,802.

The trading class amounts to 4,301; persons engaged in conveying men and goods, 2,917; persons dealing in food and drink, 1,732; professional persons engaged in literature and the fine arts, 1,575; persons in the learned professions, 645; persons engaged in the general and local Government, police, &c., 1,495; persons engaged in miscellaneous occupations not enumerated in the above classes, 6,060; and the residue of the population, 120,688, composed chiefly of persons engaged in domestic duties, scholars, &c., including those whose pursuits have not been specified and also persons of independent means.

The following table shows the occupations of the population and the number of persons engaged in them, arranged in numerical order:—

Males.

Occupation.		Number.
Farm labourers and servants		11,128
Farmers		8,531
Labourers (branch of labour undefined)		5,013
Overseers on stations, stockmen, shepherds, hutkeepers, station labourers		2,500
Miners—Copper	2,100	
Carters, slabbers, engine-drivers, stokers, and others on mines	530	
Gold	319	
Smelters, ore-dressers, &c.	223	
Miners and diggers (otherwise undefined)	124	
Lead	42	
		3,338
Commercial clerks, assistants in shops, storemen, &c.		2,057
Builders, carpenters, building surveyors, timber merchants, sawyers, &c.		1,786
Blacksmiths, whitesmiths, founders, mechanical engineers, &c.		1,682
Tailors, shoemakers, dressmakers, outfitters, hatters, &c.		1,439
Shop and store keepers, warehousemen, dealers, hawkers, &c.		1,200
Other artisans and mechanics—printers, bookbinders, coopers, &c.		1,162
Masons, bricklayers, slaters, hodmen, stucco-men, &c.		1,137
Carriers, draymen, bullock drivers on roads, lightermen, &c.		1,108
Engaged in sea navigation—sailors, ship stewards, &c.		927
Horticultural—market gardeners, gardeners (master), &c.		867
Vegetable food chiefly and drinks—bakers, confectioners, greengrocers, &c.		840
Animal food chiefly—butchers, poulterers, fishmongers, &c.		832
Domestic servants (general)—cooks, coachmen, grooms (private servants)		791
Quarrymen, brickmakers, road and railway labourers, &c.		726
Workmen in Government employment—messengers, office-keepers, chainmen in survey parties, telegraph constructors, &c.		664
Other occupations—proprietors of labour markets, billiard-table keepers, &c.		594
Owners and drivers of coaches, cabs, watermen, &c.		555
Officers of general Government—judges, resident magistrates, Government clerks, surveyors, &c.		524
Bankers, brokers, accountants, auctioneers, commission agents, &c.		499

Occupation.	Number.	
Coach and cart makers, wheelwrights, implement makers, &c.	493	
Inn and lodging-house keepers, inn servants, &c.	482	
Teachers, schoolmasters, tutors, &c.	405	
Pastoral—squatters, stockholders, graziers, sheep farmers, &c.	393	
Woodsplitters, fencers, bushmen (otherwise undefined), &c.	312	
Cabinetmakers, furniture dealers, carvers and gilders, turners, &c.	299	
Tanners, fellmongers, soapboilers, woolsorters, charcoal burners, &c.	249	
Clergy, ministers, priests, missionaries and their subordinates, pew-openers, &c.	245	
Other professions—authors, editors, reporters, photographers, musicians, &c.	237	
Police, wardens, turnkeys, &c.	217	
Annuitants, independent means, &c.	211	
Merchants, importers, &c.	204	
Porters and messengers (not assistants in shops or stores)	171	
Contractors (branch undefined)	160	
Vignerons, dressers, gardeners, &c.	154	
Woodcutters, water-carriers, woodmen, &c.	154	
Overseers (branch of labour undefined)	148	
Physicians, surgeons, oculists, dentists, &c.	123	
Architects, civil engineers, surveyors (land), draughtsmen, &c.	123	
Dispensing chemists, druggists, &c.	96	
Lawyers, barristers, attorneys, conveyancers, &c.	90	
Persons deriving income from houses—householders, house proprietors, &c.	87	
Law clerks, law stationers, bailiffs, &c.	80	
Officers of corporations, district councils, &c.	77	
Gentlemen (not otherwise defined)	70	
Cattle dealers and saleyard keepers, farriers, poundkeepers, &c.	33	
Church officers, vergers, sextons, &c.	10	
		55,223
RESIDUE OF THE MALE POPULATION.		
Children, relatives, visitors, &c. (not otherwise defined)	23,526	
Scholars, whether in public or private schools, or at home	14,736	
Unemployed, "no occupation at present"	816	
Occupation not stated	487	
Patients in hospitals, asylums, depôts, &c.	419	
Prisoners	201	
		40,185
Total of the male population		95,408

Females.

Domestic servants (general), cooks, &c.	6,443
Dressmakers, milliners, tailoresses, &c.	1,552
Teachers, schoolmistresses, governesses, music teachers, &c.	803
Farm labourers and servants, &c.	330
Farmers	244
Assistants in shops, &c.	170
Shop and store keepers, dealers, hawkers, &c.	161
Other occupations	141
Annuitants, independent means, &c.	117
Inn and lodging-house keepers, inn servants, &c.	95
Persons deriving income from houses—house proprietors, &c.	38
Vegetable food chiefly and drinks—bakers, confectioners, greengrocers, &c.	32
Animal food chiefly—butchers, poulterers, fishmongers, &c.	28
Ladies (not otherwise described)	20
Horticultural—market gardeners, &c.	18
Shepherds' wives assisting as hutkeepers, &c.	11

Occupation.		Number.
Vignerons, dressers, &c.		9
In Government employment—office-keepers, nurses, &c.		8
Other professions—authors, musicians, &c.		7
Merchants, importers, &c.		6
Pastoral—squatters, stockholders, graziers, sheep farmers, &c.		6
Registry office keepers, &c.		4
In Government employment		3
Employed by corporation—office-keepers, &c.		2
Other artisans and mechanics—bookbinders, &c.		2
Chemist and druggist (proprietor)		1
Mason (ditto)		1
Blacksmith (ditto)		1
Builder (ditto)		1
Cabinetmaker (ditto)		1
Tanner, &c. (ditto)		1
Wood and water carter		1
Porter and messenger		1
		10,258
RESIDUE OF THE FEMALE POPULATION.		
Children, relatives, visitors, &c. (not otherwise defined)	34,826	
Wives, widows, &c.	30,555	
Scholars, whether in public or private schools, or at home	14,123	
Patients in hospitals, asylums, depôts, &c.	284	
Occupations not stated	84	
Unemployed, "no occupation at present," &c.	48	
Prisoners	40	
		79,960
Total of the female population		90,218

Religions of the People.—The various religious denominations were ascertained at the census taken in 1871, and the numbers in connexion with each were found to be as follows:—

—	Number.	Per cent. of the Population.
Church of England	50,849	27·39
Roman Catholic	28,668	15·44
Wesleyan Methodist	27,075	14·59
Lutheran, German	15,412	8·30
Presbyterian	13,371	7·20
Baptist	8,731	4·70
Primitive Methodist	8,207	4·42
Congregational or Independent	7,969	4·29
Bible Christian	7,758	4·18
Christian Brethren	1,188	·64
Methodist New Connexion	363	·20
Unitarian	662	·36
Moravian	210	·11
Society of Friends	92	·05
New Jerusalem Church	137	·07
Jews	435	·23
Protestants (not otherwise defined)	4,753	2·55
Other religions	508	·27
Object	5,436	2·92
Not stated	3,808	2·04

Excluding those cases in which objection was taken to affording the information, or the information was not given, it would appear that about 85 per cent. of the whole population are members of Protestant Churches, and the remaining 15 per cent. are Roman Catholics. The Church of England is represented by 27 per cent., the Wesleyan Methodists by 15 per cent., the German Lutherans by 8 per cent., Presbyterians by 7 per cent., and the Congregationalists, Bible Christians, Primitive Methodists, and Baptists each by about 5 per cent. of the total population.

Education.—The returns under this head only show the number of persons able to read and write, those able to read only, and those unable to read. Omitting children under five years of age, the proportion of each class is as follows:—Seventy-five per cent. of the population can read and write, 14 per cent. can only read, and 10 per cent. can neither read nor write.

Of the rising youth, say from 15 to 21 years of age, 91 per cent. can read and write, six per cent. can read only, and only three per cent. are totally uneducated.

That parents are alive to the necessity of giving their children a degree of education which they, from the circumstances of their early life, were precluded from receiving, is proved from the fact that whilst among the adult population 61 in every 1,000 are returned as unable to read, the number of youths of both sexes between the ages of 15 and 21 who cannot read is only 30 in every 1,000; the numbers specified 10 years before being respectively 83 in every 1,000 adults, as against 51 in every 1,000 youths unable to read.

The following table affords a comparison of the degree of education in the different Australian Colonies:

Name of Colony.	Proportion of every 1,000 Children between Five and Fifteen Years of Age who could		
	Read and Write.	Read only.	Not Read.
South Australia - - -	576	234	190
Victoria - - -	640	207	154
New South Wales - -	536	209	255
Queensland - - -	512	246	242

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

The Province is divided into 28 registration districts for the purpose of recording births and deaths and for the registration of marriages. The number of births registered during 1875 was 7,408, namely, males 3,774, and females 3,634. The following tables show the number of births at quinquennial periods:—

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BIRTHS.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1856	2,336	2,152	4,488
1861	2,868	2,683	5,551
1866	3,470	3,312	6,782
1871	3,695	3,387	7,082
1875	3,774	3,634	7,408

The average birth-rate is 37 per 1,000 of the population, which compares favourably with the birth-rate in England and Wales, viz., 33 per 1,000. The proportion of births is 104 males to 100 females, or the same proportion as is recorded at home. The number of marriages registered in 1875 was 1,688.

There is an average of eight marriages per 1,000 of the population, being almost identical with the rate in the mother country. The annexed statement shows the number of marriages solemnized by each denomination in 1866, 1871, and 1875:—

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized	1866.	1871.	1875.
By the Church of England - -	325	284	391
„ Roman Catholics - -	183	177	199
„ Lutherans - - -	101	82	99
„ Congregational Independents -	122	95	110
„ Wesleyans - - -	164	178	306
„ Free Church of Scotland -	1	3	9
„ Presbyterian - - -	108	88	92
„ Christians - - -	14	21	33
„ Baptists - - -	47	58	82
„ Bible Christians - -	81	93	109
„ Primitive Methodists - -	94	107	162
„ Methodist New Connexion -	6	7	8
„ Moravians - - -	1	2	3
„ Unitarians - - -	6	6	4
„ Jews - - - -	3	—	2
„ District Registrars - -	43	76	76
„ Christian Brethren - -	—	2	1
„ Mission to Aborigines - -	—	3	—
„ New Jerusalem Church - -	—	4	2
	1,299	1,250	1,688

The rate of mortality throughout the Province was much higher in 1875 than usual, owing to the prevalence of zymotic diseases, measles and scarlatina, which caused (local diseases supervening) an advance of the death-rate, especially amongst infants and children. The total deaths registered were 2,118 males and 1,918 females. The following is a table showing the mortality in the years mentioned:—

DEATHS.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1856	658	489	1,147
1861	1,095	867	1,962
1866	1,537	1,216	2,753
1871	1,352	1,026	2,378
1875	2,118	1,918	4,036

Nearly one half of the mortality is of infants under two years—a rate not so high as rules in England. A larger number of male than of female children die at that period of infancy.

The following table shows the average death-rate for 10 years under each class of disease in England and in South Australia :—

DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

Class.	South Australia.	England.
I. Zymotic - ... - - -	4·28	5·19
II. Constitutional - - - -	1·68	4·19
III. Local - - - - -	5·26	8·68
IV. Developmental - - - -	2·88	3·60
V. Violent - - - - -	0·7	0·78
VI. Unspecified - - - - -	0·34	—
All causes - - - -	15·14	22·47

The average death-rate in South Australia is 15 per 1,000, as compared with 22 per 1,000 in England.

Immigration and Emigration.

Last year, 6,566 persons arrived in South Australia, and 4,019 left it, yielding an increase of the population from this source of 2,547 persons. During that and the preceding twelve months assisted immigration was resumed by Government after a lapse of several years. The sum voted by Parliament for the introduction of immigrants during the coming year (1876) is 100,000*l.*, and the balance of the amount voted for expenditure in 1875, equal to 18,551*l.*, is also available for the like purpose. These sums provide a fund sufficient for the introduction of about 6,000 adults, or between four and five hundred souls monthly.

When it is considered that during the past five years nearly two and half millions of acres of land have been taken up for agricultural settlement, a steady and moderate increase of man power, suitable to the requirements of the country, becomes an absolute necessity. Such additional labour will be readily absorbed into the general population without producing any disturbance of social interests. This large augmentation of the area occupied by the farming classes has taken place during a period in which the influx of population from abroad only amounted to 4,555 souls.

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The following statement shows the total immigration and emigration during each of the past five years, and also the number of immigrants introduced at the public expense:—

Year.	Immigration.			Emigration.			Immigrants at Public Expense.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 - -	1,681	851	2,532	2,037	1,145	3,182	—	—	—
1872 - -	1,604	797	2,401	2,173	1,232	3,405	—	—	—
1873 - -	3,064	1,484	4,548	2,126	1,046	3,172	104	122	226
1874 - -	3,555	2,002	5,557	2,226	1,045	3,271	1,192	960	2,152
1875 - -	4,311	2,255	6,566	2,718	1,301	4,019	1,156	911	2,067
Total -	14,215	7,389	21,604	11,280	5,769	17,049	2,452	1,993	4,445

Government immigration was resumed in 1873; since the commencement of which year the balance of immigration over emigration has amounted to 6,209 souls, or 1,764 more than the number introduced at the expense of the State. It will also be noticed that the proportion of immigrants at their own cost largely increased during the past year.

Education.

The administration of the public votes for educational purposes, and the control and management of State-assisted schools throughout the Province have been vested, since 1851, in a central Board of Education.

The number of schools licensed by the Board in 1874 was 320, of which 14 were within the city of Adelaide, 27 in other corporate towns, and 279 in the country districts. Presiding over these schools were 217 licensed schoolmasters and 98 licensed schoolmistresses. The number of scholars attending was 17,426, of whom 9,625 were boys and 7,801 girls. The average attendance at all schools was 13,774 for one month; the average number on the roll at each school was 54, and the average attendance 43, whilst the per-centage of attendance to the number on the rolls during one month was 79.

The following table shows the operations of the board last year as compared with 1870:—

	1870.	1874.
Number of licensed schools - - -	300	320
Number of licensed schoolmasters - -	222	217
Number of licensed schoolmistresses - -	72	98
Scholars at licensed schools, including destitute children and orphans - - (Highest number on the monthly roll.)	Boys - 8,491 Girls - 6,617 15,108	Boys - 9,625 Girls - 7,801 17,426
Average attendance - - - -	11,969	13,773

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The expenditure of the Board in 1874 was 29,689*l.*, being an advance of 9,266*l.* upon that of 1870. The total sum expended in aid of erecting district school-houses has been 22,207*l.* The average amount of school fees paid for each scholar by parents, &c. was 19*s.* 7¼*d.* The average expense to the State of each licensed school was 83*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

In addition to schools receiving aid from the Government, there have always existed a large number of private schools with an average attendance of about 7,000 scholars.

During the past year a new Education Act was passed, providing that the future management of public education shall be committed to a Council, with a paid president and staff of officers directly responsible to the Minister of Education—a member of the Cabinet. Mr. Harcus thus describes the nature of the improvements contemplated by the new measure:—"Schools will "be established wherever there is a certain number of children "of a school age who will pay a moderate fee to the teachers" (viz., 4*d.* per child per week). "In addition to the fees, the "teachers will be paid by the Government, through the council, "salaries varying from 100*l.* to 300*l.* per annum. School-houses "will be provided, and the necessary education material. Grants "of public lands will be set apart every year, and placed under "the control of the Council, the rents from which will be devoted "to school purposes. Four and a half hours each day will be "devoted to secular instruction, previous to which the Bible may "be read—without note or explanation; practically the instruction "will be secular. All children of school age will be required to "be under instruction until a certain standard of attainment (to "to be fixed by the Council) is reached; so far the system will "be compulsory. Provision is made for the gratuitous instruction "of children whose parents can show that they are not able to "pay for it; but fees may be enforced in all cases where inability "to pay them has not been proved. It will thus be seen that "the three great principles of public education which are now so "much in vogue are adopted in the Bill, with certain modifications "—the education is secular, but not to the exclusion of the Bible; "free, to those who cannot afford to pay a small fee; and com-"pulsory, wherever practicable. Provision is also made for the "establishment of model and training schools, of boards of advice, "and for the systematic examination of teachers and their classi-"fication according to their attainments and proficiency, and for "scholarships."

With a view of showing that Parliament is desirous of fostering and encouraging the growth of a comprehensive system of public instruction, it may be stated that the following grants of money and land have lately been made:—Towards the expenses of the Education Department, payment of teachers, &c., a yearly sum of 60,000*l.*; and a like amount for the erection of public school-buildings. 120,000 acres of the public estate were also granted to the Council, and provision made for setting apart 20,000 acres in future years. To the University of Adelaide, lately established,

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an annual grant of 5 per cent. on all sums contributed to the University from private sources (at present amounting to over 40,000*l.*), and also an endowment of 50,000 acres of land. For the maintenance of institutes, and for the erection of buildings connected therewith, the sum of 16,000*l.*

The South Australian Institute, established in 1856, contains under one roof a public library and museum, a circulating library, and a public reading and news room. It has also incorporated with it societies for the promotion and study of philosophy and the fine arts. The Institute is managed by a board of governors, and is subsidised by the State. The 75 country institutes which the parent institute has affiliated are scattered over the length and breadth of the Province. They are governed by committees elected by the members of each institute. About 20 possess buildings half the cost of which has, in each case, been defrayed from the public revenue.

The number of volumes in the library of the South Australian Institute is 18,837 ; the number of subscribers is 715 ; and the number of volumes in circulation during the year, 54,648. In the country institutes the number of volumes is 42,393; the number of members, 2,904; the aggregate income (exclusive of the Government grant), 3,360*l.* ; and the number of volumes circulated during the year has been 76,487.

Public Worship.

The voluntary principle, or freedom of religion from State assistance and consequent control, was established in South Australia from the date of its foundation. The beneficial results of its operation under the circumstances of this community may be estimated by the fact that two-thirds of the population are provided with suitable accommodation for the observance of public worship. The number of churches, chapels, rooms, and other buildings used for public worship at the end of 1874 was 876, providing 132,000 sittings, distributed in the proportion shown in the following table :—

Denomination.	Number of Churches or Chapels.	Number of Sittings in such Churches or Chapels.	Number of Rooms and other Buildings used for Public Worship.	Number of Sittings in such Rooms, &c.
	1874.	1874.	1874.	1874.
Church of England - -	73	19,452	38	1,273
Church of Scotland - -	2	150	—	—
Roman Catholics - -	42	11,500	5	480
Congregationalists or Independents - - -	36	8,400	10	400
Baptists - - -	27	5,725	11	680
Wesleyan Methodists - -	160	30,296	104	2,000

Denomination.	Number of Churches or Chapels.	Number of Sittings in such Churches or Chapels.	Number of Rooms and other Buildings used for Public Worship.	Number of Sittings in such Rooms, &c.
	1874.	1874.	1874.	1874.
German Lutherans - -	31	5,324	8	400
Bible Christians - -	86	14,000	20	750
Primitive Methodists - -	106	14,000	41	1,000
Methodist New Connexion -	2	625	2	90
Free Presbyterian - -	4	600	4	300
Presbyterian Church of South Australia - - -	15	3,960	13	1,190
Unitarians - - -	1	300	1	100
Moravians - - -	1	200	—	—
Friends, Society of - -	2	200	—	—
New Jerusalem Church - -	1	130	—	—
Christians (Brethren, Disciples, &c.) - - - -	20	5,000	9	2,450
Hebrews - - -	1	200	—	—
Total - -	610	120,062	266	11,113

Ten years ago there were 535 churches, containing 86,000 sittings. The number of Sunday schools in 1874 was 525, attended by 35,671 children, instructed by 4,650 teachers, of whom 2,200 were male and 2,450 female. The average attendance of scholars has been uninterruptedly increasing year by year since 1865, when the number reached 23,739.

Charitable Institutions.

Ample provision is made by the State for the relief and support of that helpless section of the community which may be divided into aged and sick, persons mentally infirm, and orphan children.

The Adelaide Hospital is a Government institution, under the management of a board consisting of professional and non-professional members, who with an efficient staff of officers administer the affairs of the institution. During the year 1874, there were 1,806 inmates of the hospital, of whom 98 died, 1,579 were discharged, cured or relieved, and 129 remained on the last day of the year. The daily average number of patients was 134. There are five hospitals in the country districts, and in addition thereto provision is made for medical attendance on the indigent sick throughout the settled portions of the Colony.

Two hospitals for the insane are also provided by the State, and are conducted on the same principles as similar asylums in the mother country, and with great efficiency. For every 100,000 of the population, South Australia has 195 insane persons; England has 226. The total number of cases treated was 464; the

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daily average number in the asylums was 352; the number of admissions was 106; the number of patients discharged, cured or relieved, was 81; and the number of deaths was 32. Patients able to maintain themselves are also admitted for treatment upon paying reasonable fees.

The asylum for the relief of infirm and destitute persons not requiring active medical treatment affords assistance to the necessitous. The rule is rigidly followed of excluding from in-door relief any able-bodied person, and out-door relief is only given to males in consequence of sickness—and then only on medical certificate; it being understood that no man capable of working and able to earn his own livelihood should be assisted from the funds of the institution. The cases of widows and orphans, or females deprived of their natural protectors, are exceptionally regarded; and applicants for relief of this class are treated according to circumstances, and receive all necessary assistance. The average number in the asylum of male adults is 175, chiefly infirm and decrepit, and 83 female adults. 72, principally young children, were maintained in the industrial schools connected with this institution. On arriving at a suitable age, the children are placed with or adopted by private families, under what is known as the boarding-out system, under the careful supervision of the department, assisted by a committee of ladies who voluntarily devote the necessary time to overlooking the children's welfare. Some 500 orphans and neglected children have by these means found comfortable homes, and the system generally is considered to have worked with great success.

The protection of the aborigines and the duty of supplying them with medical comforts in sickness, &c., is performed by a public officer. The welfare of these people has also been attended to by several long-established institutions, mainly supported by voluntary contributions.

Among other benevolent institutions of a private character are the Strangers' Friend's Society, Hebrew Philanthropic Society, Female Refuge, Homœopathic Dispensary; institutions for the relief of the blind, deaf, and dumb; cottage homes for the aged and infirm poor and widows; Convalescent Hospital; Orphan Home, for the reception and training of orphan girls; Prince Alfred's Sailors' Home; and Servants' Home.

Although not strictly coming under the head of charitable institutions, it is desirable to mention that 28 Masonic lodges, English, Irish, and Scotch constitutions, are distributed throughout the Colony.

Friendly societies have also been for many years in active operation under local legislation, and are firmly established with a large accumulated fund at their disposal. The chief orders of these societies are, I.O.O.F., M.U.; the Ancient Order of Foresters; the U. O. Oddfellows; the Ancient Order of Druids; two Independent Orders of Rechabites, and the Order of Good Templars. The total number of members of friendly societies

is 15,092; their total income, 42,464*l.*; their total expenditure, 35,434*l.*; and their total assets amount to 87,250*l.*

Administration of Justice.

The legal tribunals of the Province consist of a supreme court, presided over by the Chief Justice, and two puisne judges; the Court of Vice-Admiralty, of which the Chief Justice is judge; the Court of Insolvency, presided over by a Commissioner; local courts of civil jurisdiction, presided over by stipendiary magistrates; and police magistrates' courts.

Subjoined is a statement of the proceedings in the Supreme Court in its civil jurisdiction, during the years 1865, 1869, and 1874:—

—	1865.	1869.	1874.
Common law :			
No. of writs issued - - -	710	610	479
No. of records entered for trial - -	51	61	35
Total amount for which judgments signed	12,530*l.*	23,444*l.*	19,390*l.*
Equity :			
No. of bills filed - - - -	18	33	30
No. of claims - - - -	9	—	—
No. of petitions - - - -	25	23	27
Testamentary :			
No. of probates - - - -	88	102	167
Amount sworn to - - -	277,070*l.*	155,267*l.*	394,180..
No. of letters of administration - -	56	55	89
Amount sworn to - - -	16,670*l.*	38,860*l.*	57,680*l.*
Matrimonial causes jurisdiction :			
No. of cases - - - -	14	7	18
Appellate jurisdiction :			
No. of special cases from Insolvency Court	1	1	2
No. of appeals from local courts - -	33	16	16
No. of writs of certiorari removing judgment from local court - - - -	44	56	48
No. of writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, &c.	6	6	
No. of special cases - - - -	4	9	—
No. of writs of summons - - -	366	216	159

The number of writs passing through the sheriff's office during the same years was as follows:—

—	1865.	1869.	1874.
Capias ad satis. - - -	17	31	25
Fieri facias - - -	36	35	18
Other writs - - -	15	16	11
Total - - -	68	82	54

The following table shows the number of insolvencies, assignments, &c., and the amount of liabilities and assets specified in

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the insolvents' schedules, also taken for the same interval of five years :—

—	1865.	1869.	1874.
No. of adjudications issued :—			
On petition of creditors - - -	12	13	23
On petition of imprisoned debtors -	39	68	67
Of which, *in formâ pauperis* - -	38	67	66
On petition of debtors at large - -	58	63	—
Totals - - - - -	109	144	90
Amount of liabilities, as shown in the insolvents' schedules - - - - -	117,482*l.*	75,868*l.*	54,637*l.*
Amount of assets, as shown in the insolvents' schedules - - - - -	69,741*l.*	31,605*l.*	19,434*l.*
Amount of deficiency, as shown in the insolvents' schedules - - - -	47,741*l.*	44,263*l.*	35,202*l.*

Local courts of civil jurisdiction are established in all the principal towns throughout the Province, and number 45. They are arranged in circuits and are presided over by stipendiary magistrates. These courts adjudicate in all personal actions involving amounts up to 100*l.*, and in actions of ejectment where the land is under the Real Property Act, and does not exceed 100*l.* in value. A special and two other magistrates, or a special magistrate and a jury of four, constitute a court of full jurisdiction, and one special magistrate a court of limited jurisdiction. The latter does not adjudicate on amounts above 20*l.*

The following return shows the number and extent of proceedings in the local courts. The figures given as amount of judgments obtained after hearing do not, of course, represent the whole amount recovered through the agency of these courts, as a considerable proportion of the claims are settled out of court after issue of the summons, and do not come on for hearing :—

Claims made in the Local Courts of	Number of Summonses issued.			Amount of Claims sued for.			Judgments obtained after Hearing.		
	1865.	1869.	1874.	1865.	1869.	1874.	1865.	1869.	1874.
Limited Jurisdiction.				£	£	£			
Up to 5*l.* - - -	3,896	5,264	6,674	9,056	11,653	14,432	2,699	3,430	3,345
Above 5*l.* and up to 10*l.*	1,434	1,879	1,926	10,251	13,184	14,363	3,345	4,615	3,986
„ 10*l.* „ 20*l.*	1,014	1,348	1,318	14,478	19,376	17,985	5,120	6,703	5,460
Full Jurisdiction.									
Above 20*l.* and up to 30*l.*	393	610	507	9,388	14,813	12,635	3,419	5,240	4,187
„ 30*l.* „ 50*l.*	327	468	369	12,720	18,281	14,265	3,930	6,153	4,809
„ 50*l.* „ 100*l.*	248	373	280	18,304	29,490	20,508	5,416	8,789	4,856
„ 100*l.*, "by consent"	2	1	—	240	131	—	—	205	—
	7,314	943	11,074	74,528	104,934	94,191	23,931	35,138	26,646

The legal profession numbers 85 members; the two branches of barrister and attorney are united. A valuable law library, containing about 2,000 volumes, is attached to the Supreme Court.

The criminal records of the courts are calculated to convey a favourable impression of the law-abiding impulses of the South Australian community, the proportion of serious crimes being exceedingly small. In fact, the "criminal class" may be said to be unknown in South Australia. Following is a statement of the number of convictions in the Supreme Court during the years named:—

—	1865.	1869.	1874.
Number of felonies—			
Against the person - -	12	17	7
Against the property - -	98	87	53
Total number of misdemeanors - -	24	17	14
Total - -	134	121	74

The annual number of convictions in the Supreme Court has averaged during the last three years 72, or only one in 3,000 of the population. During the past 10 years capital punishment has been inflicted in four instances—amongst them one aborigine suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

The following table shows the number of cases of felony and misdemeanor preliminarily investigated in the police courts, and how they were disposed of—whether by committal to the Supreme Court, summary convictions under the Minor Offences Act, conviction of juvenile offenders, or by dismissal of cases:—

How disposed of.	1865.	1869.	1874.
Committed to Supreme Court - -	197	237	150
Committed to local court full jurisdiction - - - - -	79	61	—
Convicted—Minor Offences Act -	—	—	150
Convicted—juvenile offenders - -	—	—	22
Cases dismissed - - -	155	207	132
Total - -	431	505	454

About one-half of the commitments for trial in the Supreme Court resulted in conviction.

In addition to the preliminary investigations above referred to, the stipendiary magistrates have summary jurisdiction in cases of breaches of the provisions of Acts of Parliament where the penalty is limited to fine, or to fine and imprisonment. This class of offences is principally composed of cases of drunkenness in the streets, offences under the Police Act, common assaults, breaches of the Waste Lands and Impounding Acts, the Merchant Shipping and Marine Board Acts, and non-compliance with municipal byelaws.

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The following table indicates the number of cases heard and determined in the years 1865, 1869, and 1874:—

—	1865.	1869.	1874.
Informations under Acts of Councils, &c.:			
Dismissals - - - -	732	749	688
Convictions - - - -	2,632	3,129	3,445
Drunkenness:			
Dismissals - - - -	105	86	55
Convictions - - - -	1,530	1,540	1,615
Total - -	4,999	5,504	5,803

Considering the increase of population during the 10 years, the relative number of convictions, especially in cases of drunkenness, has materially declined.

Land Transfer, Liens, Mortgages, &c.

The statute known as the Real Property Act of South Australia affords a facile and convenient process by which the transfer of landed property may be accomplished in as easy and cheap a manner as any ordinary commercial transaction. Where almost every man is a landowner, or is interested in land—either as vendor or vendee, lessor or lessee, mortgagor or mortgagee—dealings in real estate become a matter of almost everyday occurrence. It may be said to be quite exceptional for an individual in South Australia not to be, more or less, personally interested in the establishment of a simple and inexpensive method of dealing with this description of property. There can be no question that the operation of the measure has been highly advantageous to the community; and as considerable interest is attached to the working of so import a reform, a detailed statement is given to the transactions of the office in each year since its establishment in 1858. (*See* page 25.) The total value of the lands brought under the operation of this law amounts to nearly ten millions sterling.

An assurance fund in connexion with the Act was established with a view of meeting claims for compensation on the part of any person who, through error or fraud, might suffer from the carrying out of the principles of absolute indefeasibility of title. This fund is derived from a contribution of one halfpenny in the pound levied on all property brought under the operation of the Act; it now amounts to over 30,000*l.*, and is invested in Government securities. The claims on the fund have reached 308*l.* up to the present time.

The following statement shows the number and amount of liens, mortgages, and other securities for advances of money registered during the years mentioned:—

Years.	Amount Lent on Mortgage.	Transactions.																						Value of Land brought under operation of Act, including Land Grants.
		Applications.	Transfers.	Mortgages.	Leases.	Transfers of Mortgages.	Discharges of Mortgages.	Powers of Attorney.	Registration Abstracts.	Caveats, &c.	Nominations of Trustees.	Encumbrances.	Transfers of Leases.	Surrenders of Leases.	Schedules of Trusts.	Licenses.	Transmissions, &c.	Withdrawal Caveats.	Assignments, &c. deposited.	Recoveries by Lessors.	Orders of Court.	Writs.	Foreclosurses.	Totals.	
	£																							£
1858	5,670	184	54	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	263	132,500
1859	54,719	829	190	265	50	3	9	1	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,355	538,340
1860	178,370	987	348	530	71	9	48	1	—	18	10	1	4	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,031	508,216
1861	233,424	747	505	558	155	11	155	1	—	14	15	5	4	4	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,183	451,475
1862	213,829	901	745	735	174	26	239	4	—	17	1	1	9	7	7	7	6	10	2	—	—	—	—	2,891	477,502
1863	260,423	1,060	898	901	227	23	325	9	—	34	—	5	13	24	16	16	22	22	—	1	1	1	—	3,598	505,806
1864	333,401	1,145	1,292	959	227	40	493	33	—	36	—	4	17	31	29	16	58	19	—	2	1	1	1	4,406	623,167
1865	492,158	1,142	1,767	1,200	290	49	605	22	—	34	—	2	34	37	15	16	53	20	—	—	1	—	—	5,287	939,900
1866	677,958	1,034	1,934	1,697	334	66	708	24	—	71	—	5	47	32	19	21	44	22	—	—	1	1	—	6,060	779,648
1867	705,543	817	1,703	1,700	320	188	848	14	—	76	—	7	39	87	14	34	68	36	—	—	4	7	—	5,962	478,880
1868	640,114	779	1,771	1,837	296	105	975	21	—	47	—	9	28	56	22	31	99	20	—	—	6	13	2	6,117	518,646
1869	766,344	812	2,075	1,835	333	106	1,084	15	—	56	—	15	36	63	17	36	106	27	—	—	12	11	—	6,589	540,410
1870	667,470	662	1,887	1,725	247	141	929	15	—	67	—	13	41	72	22	29	185	38	—	—	10	12	6	6,101	427,310
1871	697,228	704	2,044	1,612	339	133	1,198	16	—	70	—	9	49	79	21	42	198	37	—	1	14	9	7	6,582	468,686
1872	642,048	641	2,521	1,648	335	201	1,410	23	—	42	—	28	56	78	22	43	214	36	—	—	12	12	12	7,334	475,046
1873	699,981	738	3,014	1,667	357	114	1,619	24	—	71	—	6	61	77	21	40	227	16	—	—	7	5	5	8,069	788,576
1874	1,068,693	764	3,384	1,977	395	101	1,561	22	—	81	—	9	55	90	15	40	172	28	—	—	2	3	2	8,701	606,050
1875	997,775	830	4,270	2,352	413	152	1,658	31	—	25	—	16	83	103	20	46	302	27	—	—	5	3	—	10,336	632,102

Years.	Mortgages on Land.		Mortgages on Stock.		Liens on Wool.		Bills of Sale, &c.	
	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£
1866	2,252	1,033,422	91	266,031	22	51,072	158	130,153
1871	1,922	920,891	151	116,875	36	82,513	259	67,498
1875	2,627	1,289,635	158	254,508	41	55,043	268	168,194

Of the total amount of mortgages on land registered last year, 997,775*l.*—or three-fourths of the whole—were advances upon land under the operation of the Real Property Act.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The finances of the Colony of South Australia have never been in a more prosperous condition than at present. The returns of receipts from all sources of revenue indicate the steady progress and growth of the community, and there is a tone of elasticity which promises well for the future.

The general revenue for the year ended 31st December 1875 amounted to 1,143,312*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, to which must be added the balance to credit at the commencement of the year, 92,677*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, making a total income of 1,235,989*l.* 8*s.*

The total expenditure by the Government during the same period was 1,176,412*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, leaving a balance at the end of the 12 months of 59,576*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The public loan account is kept distinct from that of the general revenue.

The receipts of the year amounted to 5*l.* 12*s.* per head of the population. The amount of revenue contributed through the Customs—the only source of general taxation—was 33*s.* per head, an amount lower than the rate of taxation in the mother country, or in any of the other Australian Colonies.

The following table gives the amount of revenue derived under the several heads of receipt :—

HEADS OF RECEIPT.

	£
Customs - - - -	339,103
Marine - - - -	9,237
Rents, &c., Crown lands - -	85,744
Rents, ordinary - - -	1,120
Licenses, business - - -	13,920
Postages and telegraphs - -	78,818
Fines, fees, and forfeitures - -	27,582
Sales of Government property - -	437
Reimbursements in aid - - -	11,991
Miscellaneous - - - -	4,561
Interest and exchange - - -	2,762
Railways and tramways - -	183,095
Waterworks - - - -	30,895

		£
Land sales	proceeds of - -	177,530
	interest on credit sales -	112,038
Immigration - - - -		4,473
		£1,143,312

In young communities the general Government has necessarily imposed upon it functions and duties from which, in more advanced conditions of society, the State is exempt. The construction of railways, waterworks, telegraphs, roads, public buildings, &c. must, if entered into at all, be undertaken at the public cost. Moreover, such works must, in common prudence, be constructed on a scale in advance of the actual requirements of the moment. In South Australia such expenditure forms a large proportion of the whole, will benefit future generations equally with the present, and must not be regarded as ordinary current cost of Government.

The subjoined table shows the expenditure, specified under the respective heads of service for which it was incurred:—

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.

	£
Civil list - - - -	18,900
The Legislature - - -	10,803
Civil establishments - - -	36,035
Judicial and legal departments - -	31,059
Police - - - - -	50,245
Gaols and prisons - - -	12,337
Education - - - -	42,636
Charitable institutions - - -	54,042
Military defences - - -	882
Postal and telegraph services - -	132,744
Customs - - - -	11,577
Harbours and lights - - -	16,498
Public works - - - -	247,940
Railways and tramways - -	177,456
Waterworks - - - -	18,117
Survey and Crown lands - -	37,466
Retiring allowances, &c. - -	9,919
Interest and exchange - - -	4,838
Miscellaneous - - - -	58,894
Immigration - - - -	27,139
Interest on loans for public works -	142,476
Redemption of ditto - - -	34,400
	£1,176,412

The payments may be summarised as follows:—The ordinary expenses of Government (including judicial and legal departments, police, gaols, prisons, &c.) amount to 262,000*l.*, or 25*s.* per head of the population, being 8*s.* less than the taxation;

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43,000*l.* is devoted to education; 54,000*l.* to charitable institutions; and 328,000*l.* is required for the service of reproductive works. Among these latter, railways require 177,000*l.*, the receipts from that source being 183,000*l.* The waterworks take 18,000*l.*, and the receipts therefrom are 31,000*l.* The post and telegraph services absorb 132,000*l.*, and the revenue contributed by them is 78,000*l.* The interest on the bonded debt amounts to 142,000*l.*, averaging 14*s.* per head of the population; but an amount very much larger than this is annually saved by the reduced cost of carriage and other facilities afforded to the public by the works constructed out of the loans upon which this interest accrues. The cost of the survey and management of Crown lands was last year 37,000*l.*; and 27,000*l.* was devoted to the introduction of immigrants.

The expenditure on public works and in reduction of loans amounted to 282,000*l.*, being 105,000*l.* more than the sum received during the year from the proceeds of the sales of waste lands. The Crown lands being the capital of the Colony, it is important to note that not only were the receipts derived from their sale devoted intact to improving the public estate, but a sum equal to one-third more, derived from the general revenue, was also expended in the same direction.

Loans for Public Works.

Legislative sanction has been accorded from time to time for the raising of moneys by way of loan for the prosecution of reproductive public works, such as railways, tramways, waterworks, telegraphs, harbour improvements, and other public purposes. The following return shows the amount of public debt outstanding on 31st December 1875 for each of the several public works, and the total rate of indebtedness per head of the population, and for each undertaking:—

	Public Debt.	
	Amount.	Rate per Head.
	£	£ *s.* *d.*
Railways	1,381,600	6 11 0
Tramways	131,500	0 12 0
Waterworks	511,600	2 8 6
Telegraphs	378,400	1 16 0
Harbours and lights	328,000	1 12 0
Roads	236,000	1 2 0
Public purposes	168,500	0 16 0
Northern Territory	185,000	0 17 6
Total	3,320,600	15 15 0

If it be asked what the Colony has to show in the shape of permanent improvements, it may be answered that there are 340 miles of railway. The city, port, and suburbs of Adelaide, with 60,000 residents, have an abundant and constant water supply. Harbours

have been deepened and improved, and navigation rendered easy by an almost perfect system of lighthouses. Eighteen hundred miles of macadamised roads are in effective order, and the province is traversed feom north to south and from east to west by telegraphs, over 5,000 miles in length, bringing us into instantaneous communication with the whole world.

The earlier loans were issued bearing six per cent. interest, but those of late years bear four per cent. only. The present price of South Australian four per cents is 95½. Interest and redemption is payable in London on 1st January and 1st July in each year. The currency of the bonds is generally 30 years. Redemptions to the amount of 678,400*l.* have been made since the first issue of bonds in 1854.

Banking.

Six banking institutions carry on business within the Province, namely, the Bank of South Australia, Bank of Australasia, Union Bank of Australia, National Bank of Australasia, English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, and Bank of Adelaide, all of which have establishments in the principal seaports and inland townships, numbering altogether 64 branches and agencies. Quarterly general abstracts are published of the average amount of liabilities and assets of the several banks, taken from their weekly statements, and they comprise in each case a return of the notes and bills in circulation, the balances due to other banks, and deposits with and without interest. The total average liabilities of the six banks amount to 3,278,121*l.*, and the total average assets to 5,157,868*l.* The following table shows the total average assets and liabilities of all the banks taken for the last quarter of each of the years mentioned:—

—	1861.	1866.	1871.	1875.
	£	£	£	£
Liabilities - -	1,024,686	1,715,395	1,802,634	3,278,121
Assets - - -	1,869,068	3,620,062	3,524,412	5,157,868

The annexed statement shows the position of each bank as set forth in the quarterly return of December 1875:—

—	Bank of South Australia.	Bank of Australasia.	Union Bank.	National Bank.	English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank.	Bank of Adelaide.	Total.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Notes in circulation not bearing interest	93,898	32,520	16,943	151,690	65,315	58,964	419,330
Bills in circulation -	5,044	2,608	1,772	4,386	—	1,254	15,066
Balances due to other banks - -	13,616	—	—	11,884	1,514	54,161	81,176
Deposits - -	541,522	219,407	186,396	856,471	480,615	478,131	2,762,546
Total average liabilities -	654,082	254,536	205,113	1,024,431	547,446	592,511	3,278,121

—	Bank of South Australia.	Bank of Australasia.	Union Bank.	National Bank.	English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank.	Bank of Adelaide.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coined gold, silver, and other metals -	171,658	56,438	49,177	162,254	47,942	82,050	569,522
Gold and silver in bullion or ingots -	—	—	—	—	12,051	1,462	13,514
Government securities - - -	—	—	—	25,000	—	—	25,000
Landed property and bank premises -	35,954	15,325	14,714	33,256	11,294	17,724	128,269
Notes and bills of other banks -	5,481	4,372	2,962	14,065	7,145	4,413	38,441
Balances due from other banks -	48,242	—	—	9,701	878	6,918	65,741
Notes and bills discounted, and other debts to banks not before enumerated	807,781	370,828	324,139	1,062,914	744,338	1,007,376	4,317,378
Total average assets -	1,069,120	446,963	390,994	1,307,191	823,651	1,119,946	5,157,868
Capital stock paid up	500,000	1,200,000	1,250,000	750,000	600,000	400,000	4,700,000
Reserved profits at time of declaring last dividend -	175,636	374,119	506,471	255,617	60,000	90,000	1,461,843
Rate of last dividend declared - -	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.	16 per cent.	12 per cent.	8 per cent.	10 per cent.	—
Original price of shares - -	25*l.*	40*l.*	25*l.*	4*l.*	20*l.*	4*l.*	—
Present price of shares - -	41*l.*	69*l.*	56*l.*	7*l.* 5*s.*	26*l.*	6*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*	—

From the above it appears that the amount of coin, bullion, and Government securities held was 11 per cent. of the assets, and the liabilities amounted to 63 per cent. of the assets.

The rate of interest allowed to depositors by the several banks during the past year varied as follows :—

Interest on fixed deposits, at 30 days' notice, at 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*
" " for three months, and at 30 days' notice, 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*
" " for six months, 4*l.* to 5*l.*
" " for 12 months, 4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*
Special arrangements for particular lodgments.

The course of exchange was as follows :—

On drafts issued during 1875—

On London, at 60 days' sight—
1st quarter, 1 per cent. premium.
2nd " 1 " "
3rd " 1 " "
4th " ½ " "

On neighbouring Colonies, at sight—
1st quarter, ¼, ½, 1 per cent. premium.
2nd " ¼, ½, 1 " "
3rd " ¼, ½, 1 " "
4th " ¼, ½, 1 " "

On private bills purchased during 1875—

On London, at 60 days' sight—

1st quarter, 1 per cent. discount.
2nd „ 1 „ „
3rd „ 1 „ „
4th „ ½ „ „

On neighbouring Colonies at sight—

1st quarter, ⅜, ½ per cent. discount.
2nd „ ⅜, ½ „ „
3rd „ ⅜, ½ „ „
4th „ ⅜, ½ „ „

The present (1875) rate of discount on local bills is:—Under 65 days, 8 per cent.; 65 to 95 days, 8 per cent.; 95 to 125 days, 9 to 10 per cent.; and over 125 days, 10 per cent.

Savings Banks.

As evidencing the power of accumulation and thrifty habits of the industrial classes, it is only necessary to refer to the progress of one of the most popular of our local institutions—the Savings Bank of South Australia. It was established in 1848, incorporated by Act of Parliament, and is managed by a board of trustees appointed by the Governor. In addition to the head office there are agencies established in 30 of the principal townships throughout the Colony, in connexion with telegraph and money order offices. Deposits are received in sums from 1*s.* up to 500*l.*, but interest is only allowed up to 250*l.* The rate of interest paid is now 5*l.* per cent. per annum. The following statement shows the operations and progress of the institution, at intervals, and gives a fair index of the position of the working classes who most largely avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the bank for the safe investment of small sums at a fair rate of interest:—

Years.	Number of Depositors.	Amount deposited.	Amount withdrawn.	Amount of Depositors' Balances.	Total Funds.
		£	£	£	£
1848	214	6,473	1,180	5,313	5,414
1851	732	15,224	12,761	14,340	14,785
1856	1,469	29,328	27,142	52,775	57,060
1861	3,248	65,373	37,627	121,414	131,590
1866	7,679	124,427	147,524	249,329	266,700
1871	14,270	237,053	191,161	490,844	516,999
1875	22,662	419,914	393,686	816,827	845,276

The total number of depositors last year was 22,662, the average sum at the credit of each being 36*l.* The total deposits of the year amounted to 420,000*l.*, and the total funds of the institution to 845,276*l.*, invested chiefly in Government securities (291,334*l.*) and on mortgage of freehold property (239,711*l.*).

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The reserve fund amounts to 28,448*l.* In South Australia the depositors in savings banks are 1 in 10 of the population, in New South Wales 1 in 20, and in Victoria 1 in 30.

Land and its Occupation.

Excluding that portion of the Province known as the Northern Territory, the total area of South Australia is about 383,328 square miles, or 245,329,920 acres. It may be roughly estimated that not more than 250,000 square miles are at present put to profitable use. Agricultural settlement has not extended 150 miles from the coast, and pastoral occupation may be said to have reached no farther than 500 miles, although squatters have lately taken up large areas of land discovered by recent explorations (lying chiefly on the route of the overland telegraph), and which are considered capable of carrying stock. 26 counties have been proclaimed up to date, embracing 40,967 square miles, or 26,218,880 acres. Of this large area, only 6,283,881 acres have been alienated from the Crown, amounting, nevertheless, to 30 acres for every man, woman, and child in the Colony, or 120 acres for each male adult. About one in every five acres of the alienated land is under tillage; the remainder is used for pastoral purposes only. All land is surveyed by the Government prior to sale, and is divided into farms of extent varying from 80 to 640 acres, the necessary reserves being made for railways, public highways, watering of stock, &c. This land is thrown open for selection in large quantities, from 50,000 to 100,000 acres being put up at one time. At present there is as much as half a million of acres of land surveyed and open for immediate selection. The total area of land held for pastoral purposes beyond the boundaries of the counties mentioned is estimated to be 188,000 square miles.

The table on page 33 shows the names of counties, their area, the quantity of land sold, and the acreage surveyed and open for selection.

At the close of 1875, of the total area of land alienated from the Crown, namely, 6,283,881 acres, 4,634,549 acres had been purchased in fee simple for cash, and 1,649,332 acres under the system of deferred payments. The demand for land during the past 12 months was very great, being more considerable than in any previous year, amounting to 686,050 acres, as compared with 424,130 acres in 1874. Of this quantity 130,079 acres have been sold for cash, realising 175,067*l.*; 555,971 acres were taken up by selectors who agreed to pay on the expiry of their term of credit 764,140*l.*, paying a deposit of 76,423*l.*, which is treated as interest during the term of agreement. With regard to the 130,079 acres of land sold for cash during the year, which, as has been stated, realised 175,067*l.*, it will be understood that 351 acres were town lands, averaging 33*l.* an acre, or 13*l.* per acre more than the price realised for town lands in the previous year; that 6,701 acres were suburban lands, which realised an average price of 2*l.* 17*s.* per acre, and the remainder was country land, the average

price of which (where the land—namely, 28,337 acres—was sold outright at a fixed price) was 1*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.*, or 1½*d.* per acre above the upset price of one pound. 86,784 of the acres which have been sold on credit, and the purchase of which is now completed, realised 1*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* an acre, or 4*s.* 7*d.* above the upset price of one pound.

Counties.	Area in Square Miles.	Area in Acres.	Purchased Land to 31st December 1875.	Extent of Land held by Freeholders.	Land open for Selection.
			Acres.		Acres.
Adelaide - -	1,161	743,040	594,369	313,010	1,220
Gawler - -	979	626,560	438,667	220,731	27,652
Light - -	848	542,720	518,183	372,598	198
Stanley - -	1,420	908,800	773,300	433,863	29,873
Victoria - -	1,527	977,280	603,793	178,464	5,128
Kimberley - -	1,440	921,600	39,793	1,737	9,414
Dalhousie - -	1,220	780,800	206,789	41,061	22,845
Fergusson - -	2,000	1,280,000	304,424	147,142	77,635
Daly - -	1,236	791,040	283,684	62,016	68,112
Frome - -	1,404	898,560	269,384	19,481	39,363
Hindmarsh - -	1,032	660,480	340,788	207,311	38,362
Sturt - -	1,343	859,520	337,443	212,209	87,653
Eyre - -	1,340	857,600	245,403	138,203	61,796
Burra - -	1,767	1,130,880	217,473	151,950	2,279
Young - -	2,015	1,289,600	690	320	—
Hamley - -	2,135	1,366,400	80	80	—
Alfred - -	1,855	1,187,200	—	—	—
Albert - -	2,136	1,367,040	1,765	1,735	—
Russell - -	1,542	986,880	157,498	86,097	16,693
Buckingham -	1,612	1,031,680	34,616	2,198	829
Cardwell - -	1,856	1,187,840	1,234	794	—
MacDonnell -	1,944	1,244,160	119,835	52,824	15,165
Robe - -	2,028	1,297,920	236,922	239,552	9,286
Grey - -	2,347	1,502,080	453,418	368,221	11,352
Flinders - -	1,100	704,000	100,979	67,663	44,873
Carnarvon - -	1,680	1,075,200	2,884	4,062	—
Total -	40,967	26,218,880	6,283,414	3,323,322	569,728
Pastoral districts -	—	—	2,238	352	—
Grand total -	40,967	26,218,880	6,285,652	3,323,674	569,728

Turning to the sales of Crown lands on credit during the year 1875, and which have been stated as amounting to 555,971 acres, 516,640 acres were selected by agriculturists who entered into an agreement to reside upon the land either personally or by a servant, and to carry out the necessary conditions of improvement and cultivation, agreeing to pay on the average of 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre at the termination of their agreement, when they would become entitled to the fee simple of the land. Selections which had been taken up previously, and had been forfeited either voluntarily or by reason of neglect in carrying out the requirements of the Act, were re-selected to the extent of 25,387 acres, and the average price agreed to be paid by the new holders was 1*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* per acre.

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The following table shows the number of acres sold on credit since the introduction of the existing land system and the aggregate amount to be paid on the termination of the agreements:—

—	Area in Acres.	Amount.
		£
1871 - -	289,892	372,536
1872 - -	299,957	397,284
1873 - -	279,512	435,485
1874 - -	352,166	596,096
1875 - -	555,971	764,140
Total -	1,777,498	2,565,544

The total quantity of land taken up during the five years since the Act has been in operation is 1,777,498 acres, for which 2,565,544*l.* was agreed to be paid. Of this amount, 2,406,251*l.* still remains on credit awaiting the termination of the agreements.

The following are the principal provisions of the Land Act of 1872:—"All waste lands, other than township and suburban, have a fixed value put upon them by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, not less than 1*l.* per acre. In improved or reclaimed lands the cost per acre of the improvements and reclamation is added to the upset price of 1*l.* per acre. Those lands which have been open for selection, or which have been offered at auction, and neither selected nor sold, may at the end of five years be offered for sale in blocks of not more than 3,000 acres, on lease for ten years, at an annual rental of not less than 6*d.* per acre, with a right of purchase at any time during the currency of the lease at 1*l.* per acre.

"When any lands are declared open for selection, by proclamation in the 'Government Gazette,' at a fixed price, a day is appointed for receiving applications for sections, not to exceed in the aggregate 640 acres, or one square mile. The person making the application shall pay at the time a deposit of 10 per cent. on the fixed price, which sum shall be taken as payment of three years' interest in advance upon the purchase money. If the price of the land is 100*l.* the selector would have to pay a deposit of 10*l.*, which will be all he will be required to pay the Government for three years—about three and three-quarters per cent. per annum. At the end of three years he will have to pay another 10 per cent., which will also be received as interest for the next three years. If at the end of six years he is not prepared to pay the whole of the purchase money, he can obtain other four years' credit on payment of half the purchase money, and interest in advance on the other half, at the rate of four per cent. per annum. Lands which have been open for selection two years, and not taken up, may be purchased for cash. The scrub lands may also be taken up on very favourable terms, on long leases.

"A credit selector may reside on his land either personally or by substitute. The personal resident, however, has advantages which he who resides by deputy has not. In cases of simultaneous applications for the same block, the personal resident has the preference over the other; and at the end of five years, the selector who has resided on the land and made all the required improvements and complied with all the conditions may, by paying his purchase money, obtain the fee simple of his selection. The selector who occupies by substitute cannot get the freehold until the end of six years.

"Purchasers upon credit will be required to reside, either personally or by deputy, upon the land at least nine months in the year; and absence for any longer time than three months in one year renders the agreement liable to forfeiture.

"The credit purchaser will be required to make substantial improvements upon the land before the end of the second year, to the extent of 5*s.* per acre; before the end of the third year, 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre; before the end of the fourth year, 10*s.* per acre. 'Such improvements to consist of all or any of the following, that is to say:—Erecting a dwelling-house or farm building, sinking wells, constructing water tanks or reservoirs, putting up fencing, draining, or clearing or grubbing the said land.' The fences must be of a substantial character.

"The credit purchaser is required, during each year until the purchase money is paid off, to plough and have under cultivation at least one-fifth of the land; but in the event of his not cultivating this quantity during the first year, he will be required to cultivate two-fifths during the second year."

Agriculture.

Where over four-tenths of the male population of a community are engaged in farming pursuits, the necessity for collecting authentic information regarding the progress of agriculture is sufficiently apparent. For many years past the annual statistics collected on this subject have afforded a mass of records the value of which every year becomes greater.

The Special Commissioner of the Crown Colonies at the Vienna Exhibition (Mr. Wm. Robinson, now Governor of the Bahamas), in reporting to the Imperial Government, said:—"Of all the British Colonies, South Australia exhibits the most striking picture at present of farming industry, and on the whole seems to be the place where, good as the labourer's condition may be elsewhere, he has, by prudence and industry, the best chance of rising in the social scale, and becoming in his turn the employer of labour," and further, "the yeomanry who have found a home in South Australia, and who are at once tillers of the soil and employers of labour, are more than any one class the real bone and sinew of the Colony; and the industry which has so widely covered the land with farms, homesteads, tillage, and fencing of every description, has probably never been equalled in its result

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in any British Colony in the same number of years by the same amount of population. It is by the spread of agriculture that the greatest amount of industrial prosperity has been created, and the real settlement of the country most effectually accomplished." An analysis of the statistics of the last 15 years abundantly proves the soundness of his Excellency's judgment.

The area of land alienated in South Australia is 6,283,881 acres, or 120 acres for each male adult. Of this area, 1,330,484 acres are under cultivation, showing a result of one in every 4·3 acres of purchased land to be under tillage. There are six acres and a half of cultivated land for each individual of the population, equal to 28 acres for each adult male, or 60 acres for each person returned at the last census as engaged on farms. The following table exhibits very clearly the operation of the new land system, as regards settlement and cultivation, since its inauguration in 1871 :—

Counties.	Acres under Cultivation.				
	1870–71.	1871–2.	1872–3.	1873–4.	1874–5.
Adelaide - -	181,360	177,808	171,615	169,378	165,350
Gawler - -	159,755	179,192	197,193	193,002	199,158
Light - - -	248,400	262,526	264,624	251,951	245,491
Stanley - -	125,421	155,580	167,502	162,160	167,715
Victoria - -	5,697	20,263	79,539	116,981	154,494
Kimberley - -	—	—	931	2,054	7,760
Dalhousie - -	—	—	1,894	8,569	29,497
Fergusson - -	1,412	6,796	10,731	25,789	38,744
Daly - - -	15,335	24,869	43,231	43,156	68,246
Frome - -	764	542	507	6,247	16,268
Hindmarsh - -	77,585	73,911	63,926	61,153	54,942
Sturt - - -	40,107	34,221	37,782	43,679	35,767
Eyre - - -	27,648	27,937	37,585	37,853	45,790
Burra - -	11,445	18,103	19,865	23,981	24,943
Hamley - -	2	6	5	16	14
Albert - -	—	1	—	—	—
Russell - -	7,946	9,234	11,503	12,686	13,591
Buckingham - -	99	94	463	1,682	2,763
Cardwell - -	262	229	150	131	290
MacDonnell - -	2,922	4,163	5,535	5,767	4,936
Robe - - -	5,924	6,922	7,676	8,537	8,573
Grey - - -	41,158	36,548	36,612	44,684	40,313
Flinders - -	4,240	4,427	4,612	4,637	4,903
Carnarvon - -	1,045	1,056	993	759	772
Pastoral districts -	479	228	372	221	164
Total -	959,006	1,044,656	1,164,846	1,225,073	1,330,484

About two-thirds of the total area cultivated is cropped with wheat, of which cereal 839,638 acres were reaped last year, yielding an aggregate of 9,862,693 bushels, the largest quantity yet produced in the Colony. The crop was a fair average one, of excellent quality, and, considering the scarcity of farm labour, was safely and early secured. It is important to note that, whilst the area of wheat grown has increased more than 100 per cent.

during the last 10 years, the population has only increased 30 per cent.

The harvest now being gathered is expected to produce twelve million bushels, which will permit of an export of over 230,000 tons of bread stuffs, after providing for home requirements.

Annexed is a statement showing the total area of land under cultivation, the acreage under wheat, the gross produce of the harvest, and the average yield per acre at intervals of five years :—

Seasons.	Acres Cultivated.	Acres under Wheat.	Produce Wheat.	Average per Acre.
			Bushels.	Bush. lbs.
1860–61 - -	428,816	273,672	3,576,593	13 4
1865–66 - -	660,569	410,608	3,587,800	8 44
1870–71 - -	959,006	604,761	6,961,164	11 30
1874–75 - -	1,330,484	839,638	9,862,693	11 45

With regard to the comparatively low average yield above shown, it must be born in mind, in judging of the relative productiveness of the soil of South Australia as compared with that of other countries, that a great portion of the land has been sown with wheat continuously for many successive years without manure or rest, and, being in the hands of small proprietors, has received only the minimum of cultivation. This, of course, tends to reduce the general average ; but there are many districts where farming is carried on on a large scale, and with proper appliances, where the yield of this cereal is from 10 to 15 bushels per acre beyond the average shown above.

As evidence of the high quality of the South Australian grain, it may be mentioned that the prize wheat exhibited at the agricultural shows during the past 10 years has averaged 68 lbs. weight to the imperial bushel.

In 1865–6 there were 423,881 acres under grain, viz., wheat, barley, oats, and peas, and in 1874–5 there were 860,475 acres ; so that within the period specified the acreage so occupied was more than doubled.

Under other crops, flax, hay, potatoes, orchard, garden, vineyard, and fallow land, there were 229,182 acres in 1865–6, and 442,933 in 1874–5, or nearly double. The total quantity under cultivation at the earlier date was 660,569, and at the later 1,330,484, or more than double the acreage. The extent of land now under hay cultivation is 160,931, and of fallow land 264,327 acres. In 1858, only 18 years after the Province was founded, there were 89,945 acres of land under wheat culture ; in 1865–6, there were 410,608 ; and in 1874–5, no less than 839,638 acres.

The following table shows the extent of land under cultivation, and each description of crop, at quinquennial intervals since 1860–61 :—

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Crops.	Acres under Cultivation in Years			
	1860–61.	1865–6.	1870–71.	1874–5.
For grain:—				
Wheat - -	273,672	410,608	604,761	839,638
Barley - -	11,336	9,362	22,912	13,724
Oats - - -	2,273	2,872	6,188	2,785
Peas - - -	—	969	3,719	4,328
For green forage:—				
Wheat, barley, oats, &c.	2,174	2,514	2,600	1,117
Sorghum - -	116	230	—	—
Lucerne - -	1,726	1,424	3,445	6,699
Permanent artificial grasses - -	1,836	3,408	3,712	19,260
Flax - - -	—	—	186	274
Other crops - -	584	1,272	829	434
Hay - - -	55,818	101,996	140,316	160,931
Potatoes - -	2,348	2,775	3,376	4,582
Orchard - - -	2,147	2,554	2,763	3,077
Garden - - -	3,910	3,919	4,345	4,257
Vineyard - -	3,180	6,629	6,131	5,051
Fallow land - -	67,696	110,037	153,723	264,327
Total - -	428,816	660,569	959,006	1,330,484

Vine culture is an important and progressive industry. There are 5,050 acres of land devoted to this purpose, the total number of vines being 5,155,988, of which 4,874,507 are in bearing. The produce of these vineyards for the year ended March 1875 was 648,186 gallons of wine, about 130 gallons per acre.

The suitability of the soil and climate of South Australia to the growth of wines was soon discovered by the early settlers, some of whom had brought from Europe a variety of high class vine cuttings. The slopes of the hills produce wines of a full-bodied character similar to those of Spain and Portugal, whilst those made in the more elevated districts resemble the lighter wines of the Rhine. Whilst the local demand is fully supplied at very cheap rates, a considerable export trade in wines of a higher character is carried on, and which might be increased to a great extent but for obstructive fiscal laws. Whilst the lower class wines of the continent are admitted to the ports of the mother country at a minimum rate of duty, the customs dues charged upon superior wines from Australia are so high as to be almost prohibitory.

That the wines of South Australia are, as a rule, of a high character is proved by the fact that they have always been awarded prizes at the several great international exhibitions.

The introduction of flax growing into the ordinary routine of farm operations has been followed by considerable success. The prices realised for this commodity in the European markets have been very encouraging.

Considerable attention has also been paid to the manufacture of preserved fruits, and the drying of raisins and currants. This branch of industry is rapidly progressing, and whilst it now goes

far to supply local requirements, will probably soon develop into an export trade. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Almond trees are of rapid growth, and large quantities of a superior description of soft-shell almond are gathered yearly for home consumption and for shipment.

South Australia possesses all the conditions requisite for the successful and profitable culture of the olive. This tree, like the vine, was early introduced into the Colony, and its growth and productiveness have been so remarkable that large plantations have been established and stocked with the best continental varieties. Olive oil of the most delicate character has been expressed, and gained awards at the various exhibitions. Its purity and general superiority over the imported article of commerce has acquired for it a first position in the market. The produce of the plantations is eagerly purchased by persons who have entered upon the business of the manufacture of oil. It may be stated, as showing the importance which is attached to the cultivation of the olive, as of the mulberry (of which several plantations of the most suitable kinds exist for the development of sericulture), the almond, vine, orange, fig, and hop, that the land laws provide that the planting and cultivation of one acre of land with any of these trees shall be equivalent to the cultivation of six acres of cereals.

Orchards, gardens, and vineyards abound, and, in short, the variety and excellence of the fruits and vegetables produced in the Colony cannot be surpassed. The climate and soil enables the productions of temperate and tropical regions to be cultivated almost side by side, and throughout the year, and offers an unlimited field of profitable occupation in connexion with ordinary farming pursuits.

Pastoral Occupation.

Notwithstanding the large area of land lately alienated from the Crown, and the extension of agricultural operations, the acreage of land taken up for squatting purposes and the increase in the number of flocks and herds have been very considerable. All descriptions of stock, whether horses, cattle, or sheep, have thriven and increased rapidly.

Of late years the enclosure and sub-division of runs (enabling the sheep to roam at will during the whole year) has been found to produce greatly improved results, both as regards the quality of the stock and of the wool. Large numbers of sheep are owned by settlers, who advantageously combine sheep-farming with agriculture.

Some conception of the growth of the pastoral interest may be formed from the fact that, whilst in 1851 the total area of land leased from the Crown for pastoral purposes was 15,000 square miles, at the present time there are no less than 200,000 square miles in occupation. During the same period the number of horses has increased from 6,500 to 93,000; of horned cattle from 75,000 to 185,000; and of sheep from 1,000,000 to over

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6,000,000, whilst the exports of wool have increased from 4,000 to 118,000 bales.

The following table shows the progressive increase in horses, cattle, and sheep at each quinquennial period between 1856 and 1875:—

Years.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1856	22,260	272,746	1,962,460
1861	52,597	265,434	3,038,356
1866	70,829	123,820	3,911,610
1871	78,125	143,463	4,412,055
1875	93,122	185,342	6,120,211

With reference to the slight comparative increase in cattle it should be noted that more profitable results are found to accrue from the breeding of sheep than from great cattle. The latter pursuit is more extensively followed in the neighbouring Colonies.

During the last 10 years the average price of first-class fat bullocks has averaged 14*l.* 10*s.*, and of first-class fat wethers 15*s.* per head.

The enclosure of the sheep runs, the formation of dams and reservoirs in which large bodies of water can be stored, and the sinking of wells, are the most important improvements required, and are those to which the greatest attention is now being paid. By these means an immense area of land has been opened up and stocked with both sheep and cattle.

Almost limitless tracts of country bordering on the trans-continental telegraph line, as well as land laid open by recent explorations, are awaiting pastoral occupation.

Manufactures.

A few years ago flour mills and tanneries were almost the only representatives of local manufactures; whilst these have largely increased in number and efficiency, many important additions have been made to the list. The following is a statement of the more important; some are conducted on an extensive scale, and, from the constantly increasing number of hands employed, manufacturing industry generally would appear to be in a highly flourishing state. It will be noticed that most of the industries mentioned have their raw material at hand in the produce of the country, and are for that reason much more likely to be permanent in their character.

Milling is a very important branch of trade, over 75,000 tons of flour having been exported during the past year. There are 85 steam flour mills in the Province, with 1,500 horse-power, driving 275 pairs of stones.

Four meat-preserving establishments are in operation, and there are eight boiling-down works.

Sixty tanneries and fellmongeries, and several large wool-washing works, are distributed throughout the country; 10 soap

and candle factories; five bone-dust mills; and two glue and size works.

Thirty-one steam saw mills, 27 foundries, 86 agricultural implement works (chiefly for reaping and winnowing machines), and 29 coach and waggon builders' shops are in active work.

In addition to five patent slips, there are eight ship and 12 boat building yards.

Several marble and 16 slate quarries of excellent quality, and over 100 building-stone quarries, have been opened, of which latter 19 are free-stone, a superior description being largely used in public and private buildings. There are 70 brickyards in operation (including six for fire-bricks), 60 limekilns, and seven potteries and tile and pipe works.

The gasworks of the Colony are eight in number, of which two are for the supply of the city of Adelaide and suburbs, one is at Port Adelaide, and the remaining five are in the principal country towns.

Besides one woollen tweed factory, there are six clothing factories, four hat factories, 12 boot and shoe factories, and four dye works. There are also three flax mills, three rope walks, and two brush manufactories at work.

There are 29 breweries; 30 soda-water and cordial factories; 102 wine-making establishments; 10 biscuit bakeries; 10 jam and preserve and seven confectionery manufactories; six dried fruit and three olive-oil factories, and one ice-work.

Among other miscellaneous local productions and manufactures are the following:—Barilla, billiard table, baking powder, blacking, cayenne pepper, cement, cigars, fibre, glass bottles, plaster of Paris, washing machines, sauces and pickles, salt, safety fuze, gas stoves, iron safes, bedsteads, galvanized iron and tin ware.

Import and Export Trade.

The expansion of commerce and the development of the material resources of South Australia are clearly exhibited in the the returns under the above head. Although able, as large agricultural and pastoral producers, to supply ourselves with the greater portion of the necessaries of life, we are dependent upon Great Britain and foreign markets for a considerable number of articles which enter into general consumption.

The total value of the imports and exports to and from each country, exhibiting the balance of trade, is shown in the subjoined table. The combined import and export trade of 1875 amounted to 9,000,000*l.* sterling, of which 4,200,000*l.* were imports, and 4,800,000*l.* exports, showing a balance in favour of South Australia of 600,000*l.* The total external trade averaged 45*l.* per head of the population, or 175*l.* for each adult male. The imports amounted to 20*l.* per head of the population, and the exports to 24*l.*; or, taking the adult male population as the

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basis of the calculation, the imports amounted to 80*l.*, and the exports to 96*l.*, or an excess of exports over imports of 16*l.* per adult male.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports.	Excess of Exports.
	£	£	£	£
Great Britain - -	2,381,673	2,612,817	—	231,143
Victoria - - -	822,660	852,715	—	30,054
New South Wales -	477,147	689,115	—	211,967
Western Australia -	36,347	62,372	—	26,025
New Zealand - -	9,406	44,115	—	34,709
Queensland - -	22,888	216,800	—	193,912
Tasmania - -	40,272	2,794	37,478	—
India - - -	36,969	30,679	6,289	—
Ceylon - - -	3,972	4,187	—	215
Cape Colony - -	1,133	137,018	—	135,885
Natal - - -	5,653	44,445	—	38,792
Mauritius - -	95,743	38,732	57,011	—
Singapore - -	5,226	241	4,984	—
Hong Kong - -	28,379	40	28,339	—
Canada - - -	21,687	—	21,687	—
United States - -	28,502	—	28,502	—
New Caledonia - -	81	46,315	—	46,234
China - - -	82,933	9	82,924	—
Sweden and Norway -	63,068	—	63,068	—
Java - - -	40,061	19,583	20,477	—
Brazil - - -	—	3,000	—	3,000
France - - -	—	70	—	70
Total - -	4,203,802	4,805,051	350,761	952,010

Of the total imports, 4,203,802*l.* in value, more than one-half, viz., 2,381,673*l.* came from the United Kingdom, 882,660*l.* from Victoria, 477,147*l.* from New South Wales, 214,645*l.* from Foreign States, and the remainder from various British possessions.

Of the total exports, 4,805,051*l.* value, products representing 2,612,817*l.* were exported to the mother country, 852,715*l.* to Victoria, 689,115*l.* to New South Wales, 68,977*l.* to Foreign States, and the remainder to other British possessions.

The following table shows the total imports and exports for the years stated :—

IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE.

Years.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£
1851	1,292,864	690,777	602,087
1856	3,032,269	1,366,529	1,665,740
1861	4,008,329	1,976,018	2,032,311
1866	5,693,879	2,835,142	2,858,737
1871	5,740,419	2,158,022	3,582,397
1875	9,008,853	4,203,802	4,805,051

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Since 1851 the commerce of the Colony has increased sevenfold, from 1,292,864*l.* to 9,008,853*l.* sterling. The last five years have shown a rapid expansion, trade having increased from 5,740,419*l.* to 9,008,853*l.*, or by 60 per cent.

The following table shows for each of the past 10 years the total import and export trade, the total imports showing the home consumption and re-exportations; also the total exports, distinguishing those of the produce of the Colony, and showing the balances of produce exported over imports consumed :—

Years.	Combined Import and Export Trade.	Total Imports.	Imports retained for Home Consumption.	Imports re-exported.	Total Exports.	Exports of Produce of the Colony.	Balance Produce exported over Imports consumed.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866	5,693,879	2,835,142	2,516,128	319,014	2,858,737	2,539,723	23,595
1867	5,671,016	2,506,394	2,117,867	388,527	3,164,622	2,776,095	658,228
1868	5,057,810	2,238,510	2,023,036	215,474	2,819,300	2,603,826	580,796
1869	5,747,805	2,754,770	2,484,174	270,596	2,993,035	2,722,438	238,264
1870	4,449,281	2,029,793	1,733,603	296,190	2,419,488	2,123,297	389,694
1871	5,740,420	2,158,022	1,868,368	292,536	3,582,397	3,289,861	1,521,493
1872	6,540,194	2,801,571	2,587,233	214,536	3,738,623	3,524,087	936,854
1873	8,428,960	3,841,101	3,527,163	302,667	4,587,859	4,285,192	758,029
1874	8,386,145	3,983,290	3,438,874	534,580	4,402,855	3,868,275	429,401
1875	9,008,853	4,203,802	3,840,851	362,951	4,805,051	4,442,100	601,249

In order further to illustrate the description of our external trade, the following statements are appended, showing respectively the quantities or values of the chief articles imported and exported in the five years ending with 1874 :—

IMPORTS.—CHIEF ARTICLES, 1870–74.

——	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.	1870.
Apparel and slops, value (£)	19,383	20,951	2,832	1,246	6,452
Bags and sacks :					
Corn bags, bales -	8,256	11,900	3,407	5,064	3,822
Woolpacks, do. -	3,358	3,216	1,886	1,818	1,135
Beer, porter, ale, cider, and perry, gallons - -	215,211	283,375	218,455	174,295	191,114
Blasting powder, lbs. -	179,676	345,252	418,120	156,720	145,750
Boots and shoes, value (£) -	60,010	73,422	62,018	48,441	53,496
Candles, lbs. - - -	807,497	618,189	461,900	416,338	471,589
Chicory, lbs. - -	106,281	191,072	73,926	55,886	107,532
Coals, coke, and other fuel, tons - - -	88,756	83,583	82,502	73,983	52,310
Cocoa and chocolate, lbs. -	84,196	90,911	59,337	52,089	56,402
Coffee, lbs. - - -	413,896	371,770	346,234	380,060	549,167
Cutlery and hardware, value (£) - - -	33,579	30,447	21,734	14,011	38,617
Drapery, value (£) - -	863,865	947,455	647,062	467,697	499,046
Earthenware and china, value (£) - - -	25,979	21,807	10,429	7,764	11,493
Fruit (dried), cwt. - -	13,243	15,167	9,019	11,110	8,267
Groceries and oilmen's stores, value (£) - - -	48,231	53,902	26,834	26,805	30,154
Hops, lbs. - - -	227,953	274,770	246,853	238,790	310,558

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——	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.	1870.
Iron:					
Bar and rod, tons	3,601	2,778	3,964	2,457	1,954
Sheet and hoop, do.	1,137	1,289	713	667	1,460
Pig, do.	749	512	331	144	686
Manufactures, value (£)	212,489	232,091	95,811	98,183	70,254
Implements and tools, value (£)	40,130	36,719	23,180	29,128	17,403
Jewellery, plate, and plated goods, value (£)	39,177	30,670	21,425	15,624	11,367
Malt, centals	28,341	36,392	22,585	29,773	24,615
Oil:					
Sperm and other fish oils, gallons	6,883	12,698	6,116	12,692	8,693
Linseed, rape, hemp, &c., gallons	80,173	79,516	72,742	54,966	33,234
Mineral and other oils, gallons	332,230	237,137	210,322	222,456	167,460
Potatoes, tons	1,413	5,022	2,591	4,774	4,717
Rice, do.	294	488	310	257	260
Saddlery and harness, value (£)	20,406	19,223	16,951	11,385	7,804
Sewing machines, value (£)	16,205	18,186	12,998	—	—
Spirits:					
Brandy, gallons	116,013	83,215	87,148	54,787	32,990
Rum, do.	42,941	25,804	29,638	27,128	29,634
Gin, do.	18,558	21,408	13,560	15,283	16,245
Whiskey, do.	24,407	20,596	11,615	12,403	13,416
Sugar, cwt.	159,277	141,262	135,227	116,556	59,501
Tea, lbs.	1,699,708	1,678,325	1,025,667	1,221,848	854,887
Tin: Block, value (£)	15,279	25,433	14,895	8,037	5,628
Tobacco, lbs.	400,623	379,507	277,454	241,820	331,012
Cigars, lbs.	21,129	23,275	14,944	13,748	18,715
Wine, gallons	45,956	34,881	31,616	22,966	17,611
Wood:					
Palings, No.	1,566,327	1,687,764	1,098,914	840,635	461,315
Sawn, hewn, &c., loads	22,504	29,970	16,450	11,889	15,976

EXPORTS.—CHIEF ARTICLES, 1870–74.

Animals:					
Horses, No.	42	74	80	162	273
Sheep, do.	1,385	1,049	1,017	430	62
Bacon and hams, cwt.	35	30	143	29	10
Bark, tons	2,650	4,580	7,850	5,073	5,431
Bones, do.	195	210	880	217	520
Beer, gallons	37,710	20,564	21,257	23,746	21,930
Biscuits, cwt.	862	1,084	496	335	233
Butter and cheese, cwt.	1,206	615	1,564	565	202
Corn:					
Flour, tons	58,635	57,171	38,319	46,841	27,371
Barley, bushels	6,678	3,658	20,904	28,152	19,672
Bran and pollard, tons	2,461	1,477	2,220	3,816	2,167
Wheat, bushels	1,538,464	3,837,616	1,261,424	2,520,432	376,632
Drapery, value (£)	33,839	29,890	26,605	19,687	31,32[illegible]
Eggs, do.	7,987	8,158	7,965	8,701	8,406
Fish (dried), cwt.	701	277	509	676	823
Fruit:					
Fresh, value (£)	3,768	3,329	3,385	2,292	2,970
Dried, cwt.	610	1,500	1,590	1,325	822
Groceries, value (£)	1,199	2,962	6,439	9,832	9,575
Gum, cwt.	995	476	851	555	5,415
Hay, tons	198	162	663	297	258

—	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.	1870.
Hides and skins, value (£) -	16,139	10,593	13,472	8,798	4,266
Honey, cwt. - - -	4	201	34	131	46
Hops, lbs. - - -	21,105	—	—	—	—
Jam, value (£) - -	3,216	5,969	5,570	4,176	7,396
Leather, cwt. - -	958	1,329	3,327	4,508	2,884
Metal: Copper, cwt. -	132,587	141,744	149,050	127,911	109,211
Ore: Copper, tons - -	22,854	27,382	26,964	20,127	20,886
Preserved meats, cwt. -	11,248	13,943	12,526	10,000	4,885
Salt, tons - - -	80	184	277	70	214
Soap, cwt. - - -	1,533	—	—	—	—
Sugar, do. - - -	917	4,162	15,126	5,015	1,790
Tallow, do. - - -	25,670	40,106	33,700	63,328	30,142
Tea, lbs. - - -	21,238	46,648	135,038	69,597	123,798
Tobacco, lbs. - -	40,509	30,518	42,826	57,752	77,631
Wax, cwt. - - -	50	173	41	126	51
Wool, do. - - -	39,844,024	35,973,434	34,650,631	32,656,427	26,218,284
Wine:					
South Australian, gallons	59,174	46,400	44,910	21,788	50,085
Foreign, do. -	5,586	543	2,768	3,101	3,394
Spirits:					
Brandy, gallons -	10,657	8,140	9,913	7,590	15,619
Gin, do. - -	1,644	331	539	381	1,212
Rum, do. - -	2,305	2,023	2,429	1,826	4,980
Whiskey, do. - -	1,537	970	682	732	960

Staple Products.

It will be necessary, however, to refer more particularly to the chief sources of the material wealth of the country, which may be classified under the heads of agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce. The following abstract shows the progress made in the exports of staple products from 1851 to the present time, stated at intervals of five years:—

STAPLE PRODUCE EXPORTS.

Years.	Total.	Breadstuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.
	£	£	£	£
1851	540,962	73,359	148,036	310,916
1856	1,398,867	556,371	412,163	408,042
1861	1,838,639	712,789	623,007	452,172
1866	2,539,723	645,401	990,173	824,501
1871	3,289,861	1,253,429	1,170,885	648,569
1875	4,442,100	1,680,996	1,833,519	762,386

From the foregoing statement it appears that out of 4,442,100*l.* worth of staple produce the value of breadstuffs amounted to 1,680,996*l.*, or 36 per cent. of the whole; that wool represented 1,833,519*l.*, or 42 per cent.; and copper 762,386*l.*, or 28 per cent.; the balance of 165,199*l.*, or 4 per cent., being miscellaneous products.

Breadstuffs.—The exports of wheat, flour, and other breadstuffs constitute 36 per cent. of the total exports of South Australian produce, and have increased from a total value of

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73,000*l.* in 1851 to 1,680,000*l.* in 1875. The exports of breadstuffs during the last 12 months were as follows:—Flour, 76,209 tons, value 819,395*l.*; wheat, 479,882 quarters, value 831,266*l.*; and bran and pollard, 5,512 tons, valued at 27,888*l.*, or together a total of 1,678,549*l.* sterling.

The following table exhibits the remarkable development of this the most important branch of local industry. Giving the quantities exported will prove more useful than a statement merely showing the value, and furnish a more correct basis upon which to estimate the extent of substantial progress made by the agriculturists during the past decade:—

Years.	Flour.		Bran and Pollard.		Wheat.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Qrs.	£
1866	30,496	498,924	2,560	18,517	46,756	126,601
1867	43,703	498,222	3,274	14,549	301,543	521,690
1868	23,591	405,982	1,787	10,841	55,876	148,603
1869	38,653	495,589	2,847	15,303	195,031	371,221
1870	27,371	354,012	2,167	12,210	47,079	99,600
1871	46,842	594,482	3,816	14,495	315,054	639,348
1872	38,319	510,826	2,220	9,525	157,678	333,890
1873	57,170	737,160	1,477	7,906	479,702	965,577
1874	58,635	783,489	2,461	15,563	192,308	428,753
1875	76,209	819,395	5,512	27,888	479,882	831,266

The total exports of colonial produce in breadstuffs and grain during the period referred to was—of flour, 440,989 tons, of the value of 5,698,081*l.*; of wheat, 2,270,909 quarters, of the value of 4,466,549*l.*; and of bran and pollard, 28,121 tons, of the value of 146,797*l.*

The quality of South Australian wheat and flour is of such excellence as to command the highest price in the markets of the world. The great bulk of the crop is shipped to the United Kingdom, the daily fluctuations in whose markets are made known here by telegram. New South Wales, Queensland, Cape Town, Mauritius, New Caledonia, and several Eastern ports also receive considerable consignments of South Australian flour.

The harvest of 1875-6, now in course of being garnered, is expected to yield 230,000 tons of breadstuffs beyond local requirements for food and seed; or an excess, available for export, of the value of two and a quarter millions sterling.

Wool.—That pastoral pursuits are being conducted with great success in South Australia is illustrated by the statement furnished above, showing the export of wool during the last 10 years.

It will be remarked that the export of wool has increased 50 per cent. during the past five years, and doubled during the decade. The total value of South Australian wool shipped in

1856 was 412,163*l.*; in 1866, 990,173*l.*; and in 1875 it reached 1,833,519*l.* sterling.

Years.	S. A. Wool.	Other Wool.	No. of Bales.	Total Weight.	Total Value.
	lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	£
1866	19,739,523	1,168,562	61,977	20,908,085	1,064,486
1867	19,350,195	3,283,597	66,395	22,633,792	1,144,341
1868	28,899,190	730,335	86,913	29,629,525	1,346,323
1869	27,022,671	3,510,141	87,150	30,522,812	1,128,568
1870	24,169,256	2,049,028	87,394	26,218,284	1,000,344
1871	31,250,677	1,405,750	97,532	32,656,427	1,350,689
1872	33,709,717	940,914	100,017	34,650,631	1,692,609
1873	32,967,941	3,005,493	105,306	35,973,434	1,808,622
1874	35,593,805	4,250,219	114,845	39,844,024	1,998,939
1875	39,723,249	4,785,425	126,046	44,508,674	2,066,227

The aggregate number of bales shipped last year was 126,046, as against 87,394 in 1870, and 61,977 in 1866.

Considering the vast extent of available territory at present unoccupied in South Australia, there would appear to be little doubt that the extraordinary progress already made in the production of wool will steadily continue. The excellent quality of the staple, the great suitability of the climate, giving almost complete immunity from scab, fluke, and other diseases peculiar to sheep, taken together with the security of tenure enjoyed by the pastoral lessees, conduce to the rapid development of this profitable industry.

Copper.—South Australia owes no little of its prosperity to the employment of a large number of its people, directly and indirectly, in the working of her copper mines, several of which, whilst supporting a very considerable section of the Colonists, have been exceedingly profitable to the proprietors. The principal mines are the Burra, the Wallaroo, and the Moonta. From the first of these, 215,000 tons of ore were raised during 31 years from the commencement of operations, producing four millions sterling. The total amount expended by the company was ,982,000*l.*, of which 1,568,000*l.* represented wages, the gross profits being 882,000*l.* Since the opening of the Wallaroo mines, the total quantity of ore raised therefrom has been 290,000 tons, and the average of the past five years has been 26,000 tons. The Moonta mines were discovered in 1861, since which year 255,000 tons of ore have been raised, realising 2,760,000*l.* A profit of 928,000*l.* has been divided amongst the shareholders of this magnificent property.

In 1844, shortly after the discovery of copper in South Australia, the total value of the minerals exported was 6,436*l.*; in 1851 it reached to 310,916*l.*; in 1861 it amounted to 454,172*l.*; in 1871, to 648,569*l.*; and in 1875, to 762,386*l.*

The following table exhibits the steady productiveness of South Australian mines, distinguishes the quantity of fine copper

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shipped from the quantity of ore exported in its crude state, and gives the estimated value of each :—

Years.	Fine Copper.		Copper Ore.		Total Value of Minerals.
	cwt.	£	tons.	£	£
1866	129,272	584,509	16,824	225,683	824,501
1867	156,863	627,384	11,430	113,409	753,413
1868	104,227	400,691	20,725	207,519	624,022
1869	92,788	371,566	26,835	250,259	627,152
1870	109,421	394,919	20,886	173,861	574,090
1871	127,911	518,080	20,127	119,903	648,569
1872	149,050	680,714	26,964	122,020	806,364
1873	141,744	635,131	27,382	133,371	770,590
1874	132,587	557,306	22,854	136,530	700,323
1875	136,835	578,065	26,436	175,101	762,386

The smelting works in connexion with these mines are of a very extensive and costly character, employing a large amount of skilled labour.

Miscellaneous Products.—In addition to the chief staples above referred to, a variety of minor articles of produce are annually exported, last year amounting in the aggregate to the value of 174,634*l.*, including the following principal items, viz. :—Tallow, 25,670 cwt., 38,511*l.* value; preserved meats, 1,259,820 lbs., 28,241*l.*; leather, 4,410*l.*; hides and skins, 16,139*l.*; wine, 59,174 gallons, 19,240*l.*; bark, 2,650 tons, 14,552*l.*; eggs, 7,987*l.*; dried and fresh fruits, 4,977*l.*; jams and preserves, 3,216*l.*; potatoes, 735 tons, 3,178*l.*; soap, 1,533 cwt., 1,804*l.*; salt, 80 tons; gum, 1,251*l.*; slate, 1,253*l.*; and other articles of less value.

Shipping.

The rapid growth of the external commerce of South Australia necessitates the employment of a largely increased amount of shipping, as will be seen from the following returns. No less than 844 vessels entered inwards in 1875, of a total capacity of 316,823 tons, and with crews numbering 15,644 men; giving a daily average of 1,000 tons register for every working day throughout the year. Of 95 vessels, having an aggregate carrying capacity of 50,000 tons, lately in Port Adelaide on one day, were the following :—Steamers: 1 of 1,300 tons, 3 between 400 and 550 tons, and 3 under 250 tons; ships and barques: 1 of 2,128 tons, 1 of 1,777 tons, 6 of 1,000 to 1,500 tons, 19 between 500 and 1,000 tons, and 25 between 200 and 500 tons; besides 8 brigs, 12 schooners, and 16 coasters. The subjoined abstracts relate only to vessels arriving at or departing from South Australian ports from or to other countries, and is exclusive of a large number of steam and sailing vessels employed solely in the coasting trade of the Colony.

The following figures represent the aggregate number of vessels inwards and outwards, and the total registered tonnage in the years specified :—

Years.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1851 - -	538	155,002
1856 - -	867	230,390
1861 - -	788	199,331
1866 - -	1,039	339,871
1871 - -	1,238	373,624
1875 - -	1,634	611,381

It will be noted that the increase in the shipping during the last five years has amounted to no less than 70 per cent. In addition to the chief port of the Colony (Port Adelaide), at which two-thirds of the foreign shipping trade is carried on, there are many outports from which there is a direct export trade with other countries. It has been elsewhere mentioned that the configuration of the coast line, and the numerous shipping ports, enable vessels of considerable tonnage to be laden with wheat, wool, and other produce of the adjacent districts within a short distance of the place of production. The following table shows the shipping business done at each of these ports:—

Names of Ports.	Vessels.			Tonnage.			Crew.		
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.
Port Adelaide - -	489	418	907	205,998	169,206	375,204	7,550	6,446	13,996
Port Augusta - -	1	8	9	92	5,790	5,882	6	151	157
Port Broughton -	2	4	6	1,935	2,658	4,593	39	58	97
Port Caroline - -	31	31	62	8,553	8,863	17,416	689	701	1,390
Port Glenelg - -	26	26	52	28,821	29,680	58,501	3,498	3,645	7,143
Port MacDonnell -	69	71	140	15,515	15,511	31,062	1,256	1,257	2,513
Port Moonta - -	1	1	2	65	44	109	4	4	8
Murray River - -	98	86	184	6,425	5,786	12,211	593	516	1,109
Port Noarlunga -	—	2	2	—	373	373	—	17	17
Port Pirie - -	14	23	37	5,776	10,934	16,710	146	280	426
Port Robe - -	26	26	52	8,654	6,854	15,508	612	612	1,224
Port Victor - -	14	10	24	4,802	4,619	9,421	377	214	591
Port Wakefield -	7	12	19	3,810	6,221	10,031	100	165	265
Port Wallaroo -	64	65	129	26,003	26,920	52,923	760	757	1,517
Bort Willunga -	1	6	7	167	892	1,059	7	39	46
Port Yankalilla -	1	1	2	207	207	414	7	7	14
Total - -	844	790	1,634	316,823	294,558	611,381	15,644	14,869	30,513

The above return includes the number of steamers arriving at and departing from ports on the river Murray, the arrivals numbering 86, and the departures 98, during the year.

The River Murray Trade.

South Australian enterprise opened the river Murray to navigation in 1853, as well as, at a later period, its great tributaries, the Darling and the Murrumbidgee. Since the opening of these rivers the whole of that immense tract of pastoral country known as Riverina has been heavily stocked, producing now about 200,000 bales of wool annually. The Murray is navigable for a distance of 2,000 miles from its mouth at Goolwa. The Darling, from its junction at Wentworth, is navigable to Fort Bourke, 800 miles, and for a short period some 300 miles further into Queens-

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land. The Murrumbidgee entering the Murray some 300 miles from Wentworth, is navigable to Wagga, a distance of 700 miles, to which town railway communication with Sydney will shortly be extended. Forty steamers and 50 barges are occupied in the trade. At present the larger portion of the upper river traffic is diverted up-stream to Echuca, and thence by railway to Melbourne, owing to special inducements held out by the Victorian Government, who convey wool over that line at less than cost. As, however, the natural advantages of down-stream navigation are so great, saving 2*l.* or 3*l.* per ton in freight, as compared with the railway route, there is little doubt that the bulk of the carrying trade will eventually revert to South Australia. Surveys are being made, and proceedings taken for opening the Murray Mouth to large vessels, alongside which the river boats will then discharge.

Railways.

Including those just approaching completion, there are 371 miles of railway in South Australia, 300 miles of which are worked by locomotives. The following table shows the length of the several lines, and their termini:—

	Locomotive.	Horse Traction.
GOVERNMENT LINES.		
Adelaide and Port Adelaide, including wharf lines	9½	—
Adelaide, Gawler, Kapunda, and Burra	124	—
Strathalbyn, Goolwa, and Port Victor	—	32
Port Wakefield and Blyth's Plains	42	—
Port Wakefield and Wallaroo	34½	—
Port Pirie and Gladstone	32	—
Port Broughton	—	14
Lacepede Bay and Naracoorte	51	—
Total	293	46
PRIVATE COMPANIES' LINES.		
Adelaide and Glenelg	7	—
Kadina, Wallaroo, and Moonta	—	25
Grand total	300	71

The cost of construction of the lines at present in working has been 1,155,267*l.* They are single lines, of 5 ft. 3 in. gauge. Sixty miles are laid with rails 65 lbs. to the yard, and the remainder with rails of 40 lbs. to the yard. In addition, the cost of rolling stock and other plant amounted to 221,918*l.*, making a total of 1,337,185*l.* The cost of construction, exclusive of rolling stock, was, for the Adelaide and Port Railway, 17,433*l.* per mile; for the Kapunda Railway, 11,191*l.*; and for the extension to the Burra, 5,072*l.* The rolling stock on the Government lines consists of the following:—29 locomotives, 51 passenger carriages, and 633 goods waggons of all descriptions.

The estimated cost of the 146 miles approaching completion is 667,000*l.*, the average cost being 4,600*l.* per mile.

Up to the close of 1874 the total receipts amounted to 1,772,376*l.*, the working expenses to 1,066,937*l.*, reconstruction to 104,147*l.*, and maintenance to 420,500*l.*, leaving a balance of 180,789*l.* to profit.

The receipts for the year 1874 amounted to 132,806*l.*, and the expenditure to 124,610*l.*, showing a balance of 8,196*l.* towards meeting interest on cost of construction.

The following statement shows the amount of goods and passenger traffic, and the total receipts at intervals of five years :—

Years.	Miles open.	Passenger Traffic.	Goods Traffic.	Total Receipts.
		No.	Tons.	£
1856 - -	7½	241,886	26,354	19,498
1861 - -	58	306,140	138,663	90,489
1866 - -	58	405,502	161,671	114,131
1871 - -	133	384,389	211,683	110,963
1875 - -	133	386,117	301,530	166,710

The mileage run by trains in 1866 was 128,957 ; in 1871, 275,131 ; and it increased to 386,117 in 1875.

The two lines worked by horse traction are, together, 46 miles in length ; the train mileage run was 135,316, the total receipts 9,387*l.*, and the working expenses 9,037*l.* ; the number of passengers carried was 31,895, and of goods 30,370 tons. The rolling stock consists of 14 passenger carriages and 185 goods trucks, and 56 horses are employed.

The average charge for carrying passengers on the Government railways ranges from 1*d.* to 1½*d.* per mile, and the charge for carrying a ton of goods one mile is 2¼*d.* to 2¾*d.* A bushel of wheat is carried from the Burra to Port Adelaide, a distance of 100 miles, for 7*d.* ; before the construction of the railway it cost double. A ton of ore is now brought from the Burra mines to Port Adelaide for 21*s.*, whereas prior to the opening of the line it cost 35*s.* to 40*s.* to convey it to a port of shipment.

The policy pursued has been to reduce the cost of carriage to a minimum, with a view of developing the resources of the agricultural and mining districts through which the lines of railway pass. Without railway communication the limit within which wheat could be profitably grown would have been reached many years ago, and the quantities now produced could not be brought to a place of shipment except by steam power. As much as 1,200 tons of wheat has sometimes to be brought down in a day. Although the railways only yield a return but little in excess of the cost of working and maintaining them in good order, the facilities and cheapness of transit more than counterbalance the burthen of interest which falls upon the general public, who benefit in a direct ratio by the prosperity of the producing interests. Frequent communication between distant places situated

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on the lines of railway is secured to an extent which a private company having to realise dividends could not possibly afford.

Two railways have been constructed by private companies—one is a line connecting Adelaide with Glenelg, a populous watering-place, at which the ocean mail steamers call on their arrival from and departure for Suez. This line, under seven miles in length (single line, 5-foot 3-inch gauge), cost in construction 15,875*l.*, or about 2,200*l.* a mile. The great passenger traffic and frequency of communication necessitate the use of a large proportion of rolling stock as compared with the length of the line. It consists of 4 locomotives and 18 passenger carriages. The total cost, including rolling stock, amounted to 53,432*l.* The traffic receipts since the line was opened in August 1873 have amounted to 25,911*l.*, and the working expenses, including maintenance, to 13,870*l.*, showing a balance of 12,041*l.* to profit of the undertaking. The working expenses amounted to 53 per cent. of the receipts.

The other private line connects the Wallaroo and Moonta mines with the sea-board at Port Wallaroo. It is 25 miles long, and is worked by horse traction. The original capital was 60,000*l.*, on which 20 per cent. has been divided during each of the past 10 years. The present value of the property is 90,000*l.*, the difference having accrued from profits expended in improving and extending the works, which include jetty accommodation.

Roads.

Large sums of money have been expended on the construction and maintenance of main trunk lines of road in the settled districts, through which there are 2,700 miles defined. During the past 20 years about 1,750,000*l.* have been devoted to these works, and, with the exception of 200,000*l.*, the whole cost has been defrayed from the general revenue, no special toll or rate having been levied. The aggregate number of miles macadamised is 884, which are maintained in good order. In addition to the main lines perhaps as many more miles of district or by-roads have been constructed and kept in repair by local municipalities. For this purpose funds are raised by a rate on landed property, supplemented by grants-in-aid from the general revenue. 50 miles of metalled streets have already been formed in the city of Adelaide alone. The average cost of construction and metalling main roads is estimated to be 1,000*l.* per mile, and of maintaining them in repair 60*l.* to 100*l.* per mile annually.

Waterworks.

Considerable attention has been paid to the subject of water supply, which was first undertaken as a public work in 1857. In addition to a high-pressure supply to the city and suburbs of Adelaide, water has been laid on to several other centres of population, among which are Port Adelaide, Glenelg, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Port Elliot, Kadina, and Moonta. The river Torrens is the source of supply to the city and suburban town-

ships Port Adelaide and Glenelg. The water is collected in a masonry dam, from which it passes by means of an aqueduct 3¼ miles in length into two reservoirs, the larger of which has a water area of 167 acres, with a storage capacity of 945,000,000 gallons. The smaller reservoir has a water area of 27½ acres, and contains 140,000,000 gallons. The supply is conveyed to the city by an 18-inch main, 5 miles in length. The primary mains are from 15 to 21 inches in diameter, of a total length of 9 miles; the secondary mains are from 10 to 15 inches, and 14 miles long; and the street mains are from 3 to 10 inches, of a length of 134 miles. The furthest point of supply is 16 miles distant from the reservoirs. From these sources over 50,000 people are supplied. The highest water level of the reservoir is 170 feet above the highest point in the city, and 300 feet above the sea. Ample provision is made for the suppression of fire, hydrants being laid throughout every street and road, at intervals of about four chains apart.

The total amount of the loans raised for the construction of water-works is 620,000*l.* The receipts amounted to 14,651*l.* in 1865; to 22,600*l.* in 1871; and to 30,895*l.* in 1875. The charges for water have been reduced from time to time, the rate for that supplied through meters being now 1*s.* 6*d.* per 1,000 gallons.

Postal Communication.

Great attention has been devoted to the subject of postal communication. Considering the thinly peopled and extensive area of the outlying settled districts, more than ordinary facilities are afforded the public by frequent and rapid despatch of inland mails. A uniform rate of 2*d.* per half-ounce is charged upon letters carried to places within the Province, and a like rate for letters posted to the sister Colonies of Australasia, whether by overland mail thrice a week or by the regular intercolonial steam communication by sea. No charge is made for the carriage of newspapers either inland or to any part of the world, so far as the South Australian Post Office is concerned. Book packets and parcels are carried at a low rate, and the system is extensively used. The direct four-weekly mail communication with Europe and the East, under contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, is performed on an average under 40 days from London to Adelaide with great punctuality. The following table shows the rapid extension of postal communication, a sure criterion of progress:—

Years.	Number of Post Offices.	Miles travelled by Mails.	Number of		Income.
			Letters.	Newspapers.	
					£
1856	102	—	844,853	785,608	8,925
1866	226	809,160	2,703,105	1,968,120	27,987
1875	357	1,542,426	4,431,525	2,950,997	43,205

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Taking the last 10 years, it will be remarked that the number of post offices has increased from 226 to 357; of distance travelled by the mails, from 809,160 to 1,542,426 miles; of letters, from 2,703,105 to 4,431,525; and of newspapers, from 1,968,120 to 2,950,997. The income of the department has been as follows:— In the year 1856, 8,925*l.*; in 1866, 27,987*l.*; and in 1875, 43,205*l.*

The money order system is in full operation in all the principal towns of the Colony, there being 82 offices in all. Money orders are also issued and paid in connexion with Great Britain and Ireland, Germany, Canada, and all the Australian Colonies. The system of telegraphic money orders is also availed of to a large extent. The orders issued in 1874 numbered 18,879, of 61,190*l.* value; and 13,072 were paid, amounting to 42,282*l.*

Telegraphs.

The geographical position of South Australia being practically that of the most western of the group, the first port of arrival and the last of departure for mail communication with Great Britain and the East, necessitated early and earnest attention being devoted to the extension of the South Australian telegraphs, so as to afford instantaneous communication with Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. After this work had been accomplished by the several Governments, the question of direct telegraphic communication with Europe naturally became one of great moment to South Australia, she having under her control that portion of the continent from south to north through which an overland line could best be carried. In order to accomplish this vast undertaking, from which such great results have flowed, and an immense area of territory opened up for settlement, South Australia, at her own risk and cost—which has amounted to over 370,000*l.*—determined to enter upon the work of erecting a line of telegraph some 2,200 miles in length, across a continent which had only been traversed by an exploring party.

The first local line of 36 miles of telegraph was laid 20 years ago, and the receipts of the department were 366*l.* In 1858 intercolonial communication was opened by the addition of 350 miles. In 1861 the total length of wire open was 914 miles, and the receipts were 7,382*l.* In 1872 the overland line to Port Darwin was completed, when cable communication was established with London. The completion of this work brought the length of wire up to 3,731 miles, and the total receipts to 14,684*l.* Every township and port of any importance is connected with the city by means of telegraph, the number of stations open being 105, between which telegrams are sent at a uniform rate of 1*s.* for 10 words, which sum covers the transmission of a message over a distance of a thousand miles. There is a uniform charge of 10*s.* 6*d.* a word on messages sent between Adelaide and London. The traffic in 1875 over the transcontinental line in connexion with the European cable amounted to 104,205*l.*, the number of messages being 9,709. To show the ramifications of

the telegraph system in Australia, it is only needful to mention that the length of lines open or closely approaching completion is 28,285 miles; and the number of stations 547.

Colonies.	No. of Stations.	Miles of Wire.
South Australia - - - - -	105	5,004
New South Wales - - - -	137	7,904
Victoria - - - - - -	163	4,613
Queensland - - - - -	90	3,617
Tasmania - - - - -	32	547
Western Australia - - - -	20	1,600

At the close of the year 1875 there were 3,904 miles of wire open throughout the Colony, and there are 1,100 miles now in course of construction. The 105 stations already erected employ 230 officers, operators, and messengers. The number of messages inland and intercolonial transmitted in the year was 315,342, and international 9,709, making a total of 325,051. The revenue of the year was 33,616*l.*, of which amount 17,083 was derived from inland messages, 4,762*l.* from intercolonial, and 11,771*l.* from international messages. The following table shows the operations of the South Australian Telegraph Department from the commencement:—

Years.	No. of Stations.	Miles of Wire Open.	No. of Messages.	Receipts.
				£
1856	7	36	14,738	366
1861	27	914	76,709	7,382
1865	45	1,173	112,344	11,735
1872	86	3,731	170,902	14,684
1875	105	3,904	325,051	33,616

There is a through communication with all the sister Colonies, Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland. The connexion of Western Australia with the telegraphic circle is rapidly being accomplished, when the continent of Australia will be traversed by wire from north to south and from east to west. A cable is now being laid to connect New Zealand, thereby completing the chain which will unite the whole of the British possessions at the Antipodes with the mother country and the rest of the civilised world.

Daily weather and shipping reports are interchanged between the several ports and principal towns throughout the whole continent.

Rates of Wages.

The following compilation, by Mr. J. Kemp Penny, Labour Agent, is taken from the "South Australian Register" newspaper of 29th January 1876. It shows the rates of wages paid in Adelaide to skilled labourers and other tradesmen, the prices

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varying of course according to the proficiency or skill of the individual and the season of the year. Great care has been taken in every instance to procure authentic information.

Bookbinders.—30*s.* to 3*l.* per week; forwarders, 35*s.* to 45*s.*; finishers, 60*s.* to 70*s.*

Bootmakers.—At the principal factories piecework is the rule, but some men are employed on daywork, whose average earnings are 40*s.* to 45*s.* per week, while very expert hands earn over 3*l.* Female machine hands receive weekly from 15*s.* to 1*l.*, while girls as tackers, &c. receive from half-a-crown to 15*s.* The present prices at piecework are as follows:—Men's goods: Riveting wellingtons and riding boots, 2*s.*; half-wellingtons, 1*s.* 9*d.*; side-springs, 1*s.* 6*d.*; strong lace-up, 2*s.*; finishing wellingtons and riding boots, 2*s.*; half-wellingtons, 1*s.* 9*d.*; side-springs, 1*s.* 6*d.*; strong lace-up, 9*d.* Women's goods: Riveting side-springs, plain, 1*s.* 2*d.*; plain leather boots, 1*s.*; slippers, 4*d.*; finishing side-springs, plain, 1*s.* 2*d.*; plain leather boots, 8*d.*; slippers, 3*d.* Girls (from 10 to 13), half, riveting side-springs, plain, 9*d.*; finishing do., 8*d.*; good female fitters from 12*s.* to 14*s.*

Brassfounders.—9*s.* to 12*s.* per day.

Brewers.—30*s.* to 50*s.* per week.

Brickmakers.—13*s.* per 1,000 on the back.

Builders.—In this trade firms have adopted the eight hours' system. The prices ruling are—for stonemasons and wallers, 9*s.* to 10*s.* per day; stonecutters, 9*s.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*; plasterers, do.; bricklayers, do.; slaters, a shade higher; carpenters, 8*s.* to 9*s.*; labourers, 6*s.* to 7*s.*; pick and shovel men, do.

Bakers.—Foremen are receiving from 1*l.* 15*s.* to 2*l.* 15*s.* per week, and second hands from 25*s.* to 2*l.*, with board and lodging; skilled confectioners proportionately higher.

Butchers.—Engagements are made by the week. The present rates are—for shopmen, 35*s.* to 50*s.*; youths, 15*s.* to 1*l.*; slaughtermen, 30*s.* to 2*l.*; and small goods men, from 30*s.* to 2*l.* 5*s.*, with board.

Basketmakers.—Piecework make wages from 50*s.* to 3*l.* 7*s.* per week, mostly canework.

Cabinetmakers.—Engagements are chiefly made by piecework, but when by time the following are the customary rates per day of day of eight and a half hours:—First-class workmen, 9*s.* to 10*s.*; second do., 8*s.*; upholsterers, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.*; makers of deal tables, meat-safes, &c., from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.*

Carters.—25*s.* to 35*s.* per week.

Coachbuilders.—The wages per week vary according to the following scale:—Smiths, from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*; bodymakers, from 2*l.* 14*s.* to 3*l.*; wheelers, 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*; painters, 2*l.* to 2*l.* 14*s.*; trimmers, do.; vicemen, 1*l.* 10*s.* to 2*l.*

Coopers.—Work is chiefly done by the piece; when otherwise, however, the day is understood to consist of eight hours, for which the remuneration varies from 8*s.* to 9*s.* In piecework 2*s.* is paid for a cask of three gallons, 2*s.* 6*d.* for five gallons, and 3*s.* 3*d.* for one of ten gallons.

Coppersmiths.—9*s.* to 12*s.* per day.

Drapers.—30*s.* to 70*s.* per week.

Farriers.—Firemen per day of 10 hours, 10*s.*; floormen, from 2*l.* 5*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* per week.

Gardening.—Gardeners, 6*s.* to 7*s.* per day; digging, 3*d.* (sandy soil) to 1*s.* per rod (ordinary garden soil); trenching by contract; pruning, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* per 100 vines, 6*s.* to 7*s.* daywork.

Gasfitters.—In regular employment the wages vary from 2*l.* to 3*l.* per week; when employed by the day, they receive from 8*s.* to 10*s.*

Galvanized Tin Iron Workers.—Daywork from 8*s.* to 10*s.*; week of 48 hours, 2*l.* 2*s.* to 2*l.* 14*s.*

Gunsmiths.—9*s.* to 12*s.* per day.

Ironworkers.—Boilermakers per day of eight hours get from 10*s.* to 11*s.*; smiths, do.; fitters and turners, do.; moulders, do.; labourers, from 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*

Iron Trade.—General smiths, 9*s.* to 10*s.* per day; first-class smiths, 9*s.* per day; fitters, 9*s.* to 11*s.* per day; wheelwrights, 8*s.* to 11*s.* per day; moulders (first-class), 9*s.* per day; painters, 5*s.* per day; engine-drivers, 7*s.* to 10*s.* per day; sawyers, 7*s.* to 8*s.* per day; carpenters, 7*s.* to 11*s.* per day; turners, 7*s.* to 8*s.* per day; foundry hands, 6*s.* to 7*s.* per day; labourers, 6*s.* to 7*s.* per day.

Jewellers.—Ordinary workmen, 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.* per week, and more skilled workmen, engravers, &c., 5*l.* to 6*l.*

Millers.—50*s.* to 60*s.*

Plumbers.—Very good hands obtain from 11*s.* to 12*s.* per day of eight hours; inferior workmen, 2*l.* 8*s.* per week.

Painters and Glaziers.—These tradesmen generally receive 8*s.* to 10*s.* per day of eight hours, or 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per hour. Grainers and writers, 10*s.* per day, or 1*s.* 3*d.* per hour; very good writers and grainers, 11*s.* to 13*s.* per day.

Paperhangers.—9*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* for 12 yards.

Printers.—Compositors, newspaper, 1*s.* per 1,000; jobbing hands, 2*l.* 15*s.* per week; pressmen, 2*l.* 15*s.*

Saddlers.—Most of the work done in this trade is by the piece, but when by time, the following are the rates:—First-class harness men from 8*s.* to 9*s.* per day of 10 hours summer, 9 hours winter; second class or jobbing, from 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*; first-class saddle hands, from 10*s.* to 12*s.*

Sailmakers.—1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per hour, eight hours per diem.

Seamen's wages.—(Intercolonial) are steady at 5*l.* per month.

Stonebreakers.—3*s.* per yard.

Storemen.—30*s.* to 50*s.* per week.

Tinsmiths.—11*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per hour.

Tailors.—Wages 10*d.* per hour piecework, or 1*s.* per hour daywork. Good workmen are now earning from 4*l.* to 5*l.* per week. Females receive a corresponding increase.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Tanners and Curriers.—The working day is 10 hours. Beamsmen in the lime yard get from 2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* per week; strikers and finishers from 36*s.* to 40*s.*; tanners from 36*s.* to 42*s.*; curriers' work is all done by the piece and on agreed conditions. First-rate workmen who have served their full apprenticeship term are earning from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.* per week.

Watchmakers.—The wages given vary from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* per week.

Wheelwrights.—1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per hour.

Female Domestics.—Per week, with board and lodging: general servants, 8*s.* to 12*s.*; cooks, 10*s.* to 20*s.*; housemaids, 8*s.* to 12*s.*; kitchenmaids, 8*s.* to 10*s.*; housekeepers, 10*s.* to 1*l.*; laundresses, 10*s.* to 16*s.*; nursemaids, 8*s.* to 12*s.*; nursegirls, 4*s.* to 7*s.*; charwomen, 3*s.* to 4*s.* per diem.

Shearers.—Shearers, 20*s.* per 100; rollers, 15*s.*; pressers, 25*s.*; sewers, 20*s.*; dumpers, 20*s.*; pickers, 12*s.*; cooks, 40*s.*; butchers, 25*s.*; cooks' mates, 20*s.* per week.

Station Hands.—Drovers, 1*l.* to 1*l.* 10*s.* per week, or 10*s.* 6*d.* per day and find themselves; boundary-riders, 17*s.* to 25*s.* per week; shepherds, 17*s.* to 20*s.* per week; married couples, per annum, 52*l.* to 75*l.*; lambminders, 10*s.* to 15*s.* per week; bullock-drivers, 20*s.* to 25*s.* per week; knockabout hands, 17*s.* to 20*s.* per week; bush carpenters and blacksmiths, 30*s.* per week; cooks, 17*s.* to 25*s.* per week; water-drawers, 18*s.* to 20*s.* per week. All the above are with rations and expenses paid up to the station.

Farm Hands.—Ploughmen, 20*s.* per week; general farm servants, 20*s.* to 30*s.* per week; married couples, females to cook, &c., 20*s.* to 30*s.* per week; harvesters, 25*s.* to 35*s.* per week; boys, from 10*s.* to 12*s.*; youngsters tailing cattle and sheep, 4*s.* to 8*s.* per week; teamsters, 20*s.* to 30*s.*; hay harvesters, 25*s.* to 35*s.*; all with board and lodging.

Miscellaneous.—Fencers, post and three-wire fence, 10*l.* to 20*l.* per mile; do., per rod, three-rail, 2*s.* to 3*s.*; wire do., 4*s.* to 7*s.*; cabmen, 20*s.* to 30*s.* per week with board and lodging; busmen, 35*s.* to 40*s.* per week without board; labourers, 6*s.* to 8*s.* per diem without board and lodging; ostlers, 20*s.* to 25*s.* per week with board and lodging. Sawyers, logs at pit, 13*s.* per 100.

Average Wages of Miners.—Moonta district: Miners, per week, eight hours' shift, 2*l.* 2*s.*; breaksmen do., none employed; engineers, from 1*l.* 16*s.* to 2*l.* 15*s.*; tribute, 1*l.* 18*s.* to 2*l.* 5*s.*; on contract, from 1*l.* 16*s.* to 2*l.*; owners' account, 5*s.* 6*d.* per day.

Scale of Rations per Week.—10 lbs. flour, 12 lbs. meat, 2 lbs. sugar, ¼ lb. tea.

Prices of Provisions.

The following are the current quotations in Adelaide, as taken from the public prints, of live stock, farm and garden produce, provisions, groceries, &c. :—

WHOLESALE, FLOUR, GRAIN, &c.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Flour, fine silk-dressed, per ton of 2,000 lbs. at the port, bags included	11	0	0	to	11	5	0
Ditto, ditto, country brand	10	5	0	„	11	0	0
Wheat, per bushel of 60 lbs., large lots at the port (old)	0	5	0			—	
Ditto, ditto (new)	0	4	8	„	0	4	9
Bran, per bushel of 20 lbs., at the port, bags included	0	1	2	„	0	1	2½
Pollard, per bushel of 20 lbs.	0	0	11	„	0	1	0
Oats, per bushel of 40 lbs., without bags	0	4	0	„	0	4	6
Barley, per bushel of 50 lbs., without bags	0	5	6	„	0	6	0

WHOLESALE, DAIRY AND FARM PRODUCE.

Bacon - per lb.	0	0	10			—	
Butter - „	0	0	10			—	
Ditto (potted) - „	0	0	11			—	
Cheese - „	0	0	9			—	
Eggs - per doz.	0	0	9½			—	
Hams - per lb.	0	0	11			—	
Lard - „	0	0	9			—	
Onions - per cwt.	0	11	0			—	
Honey - per lb.	0	0	3			—	
Hay - per ton	3	10	0			—	
Prairie grass - per bush.	0	8	0			—	
Seed, lucerne - per lb.	0	1	2			—	
Peas - per bush.	0	3	6			—	
Vetches - „	0	8	0			—	

HIDES, SKINS, BONES, &c.

Hides, salted - per lb.	0	0	4½	to	0	0	5
Butchers' green - each	1	5	0	„	2	10	0
Hoofs - per ton	1	10	0	„	2	10	0
Green Kangaroo skins - per doz.	0	7	0	„	2	5	0
Skins, calf - each	0	1	4	„	0	10	0
Ditto, Wallaby - per doz.	0	10	0	„	1	15	0
Shank bones - per ton	5	0	0	„	10	0	0

BARK.

Bark, wattle, ground - per ton	7	0	0			—	
Ditto, ditto, chopped - „	5	10	0	to	6	0	0

TALLOW.

Tallow, beef, for export - per ton	32	0	0			—	
Ditto, mutton, ditto - „	34	0	0			—	

WOOL.

Washed - per lb.	0	0	11	to	0	1	2
Greasy - „	0	0	7	„	0	0	8

WINE (COLONIAL).

Good sound Colonial wine of last year's vintage, for large quantities in bulk - per gall.	0	1	6	to	0	4	0
Superior ditto - „	0	5	0	„	0	10	0
Colonial spirits, in bond - „	0	3	6			—	

LEATHER.

Basils - per doz.	0	15	0	to	1	0	0
Colonial calf - per lb.	0	4	0	„	0	5	6
Ditto kip - „	0	2	3	„	0	2	6
Ditto sole - „	0	1	2	„	0	1	7
Ditto kangaroo - per doz.	1	15	0	„	4	0	0
Ditto, Wallaby - per lb.	0	12	0	„	0	14	0

COPPER.

Wallaroo - per ton	82	0	0			—	
Burra - „	82	0	0			—	

LIVE STOCK.

Horses, draught	30	0	0	to	45	0	0
Ditto, light	12	0	0	„	20	0	0
Bullocks, fat	10	0	0	„	15	0	0

Sheep, fat wethers, 12*s.* to 17*s.*, according to season.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

RETAIL FARM AND DAIRY PRODUCE.

Quotations: Bread and flour; bread, 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* per 2-lb. loaf; do., aërated, 3*d.* 2-lb. loaf; flour, 1½*d.* to 2*d.* per lb. Butcher's meat: beef, 4*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; mutton, 2*d.* to 5*d.*; lamb, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per quarter; pork, 7*d.* to 8*d.*; veal, 5*d.* to 8*d.* Dairy produce: bacon, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb.; butter, fresh, 1*s.* 2*d.*; do., salted, 1*s.* 2*d.*; cheese, 1*s.*; eggs, 1*s.* per dozen; fowls, 5*s.* per pair; ducks, 6*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per pair; geese, 6*s.* each; hams, 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb.; honey, 5*d.* per lb.; lard, 1*s.* per lb.; milk, 4*d.* to 6*d.* per quart; pigeons, 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.* per pair; rabbits, tame, 1*s.* each; wild do., 1*s.* per pair; turkeys, 6*s.* to 10*s.* each.

GROCERIES.

Tea, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb.; sugar, 3*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb.; coffee, 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.; rice, 3*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; salt, 1*d.* per lb.; tobacco, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*; soap, 3*d.* to 4*d.* per lb.

HAY MARKET.

Best wheaten hay, 4*l.* 10*s.* per ton; good mixed do., 3*l.* 15*s.*

EAST-END MARKET.

Vegetables: Beans (broad), 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; beans (French), 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen lbs.; beetroot, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per dozen; cabbages, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* per dozen; do. (Savoys), 2*s.* to 3*s.* per dozen; capsicums, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; carrots, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen bunches; cauliflowers, 3*s.* to 5*s.* per dozen; celery, 4*s.* to 6*s.* per dozen heads; chillies, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; horse-radish, 6*d.* to 10*d.* per lb.; garlic, 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; lettuces, 6*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per dozen; marjoram, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen bunches; mint, 6*d.* per dozen bunches; onions, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; parsnips, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per dozen bunches; peas, 3*s.* to 4*s.* per bushel; potatoes, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per cwt.; radishes, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen bunches; do. (turnip), 6*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen bunches; rhubarb, 2*s.* to 3*s.* per dozen lbs.; sage, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen bunches; shalots, 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; thyme, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen bunches; tomatoes, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen lbs.; trombones, 4*s.* to 7*s.* per dozen; turnips, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen bunches; vegetable marrows, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per dozen; watercress, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen bunches; cucumbers, 6*d.* to 3*s.* per dozen. Fruit: Almonds (green), 2*d.* per lb.; do. (hard-shell), 2*d.* per lb.; do. (soft-shell), 6*d.* per lb.; do. (cracked), 8*d.* per lb.; apples, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; apricots, 20*s.* to 22*s.* per cwt.; do., 2*d.* to 6*d.* per dozen; Barcelona nuts, 7*s.* per dozen lbs.; citrons, 15*s.* per cwt.; damsons, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per bushel; figs, 2*d.* to 6*d.* per dozen; gooseberries (Cape), 9*d.* to 10*d.* per lb.; grapes, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen lbs.; lemons, 9*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen; melons (water), 15*s.* to 18*s.* per cwt.; nectarines, 2*d.* to 3*d.* per dozen; oranges, 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per dozen; peaches, 2*d.* to 6*d.* per dozen; pears, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* per bushel; plums, 3*s.* to 4*s.* per bushel; strawberries, 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb. Dairy produce: Bacon, 10*d.* per lb.; do. (green), 9*d.* per lb.; butter (fresh), 10*d.* to 1*s.* per lb.; cheese (English), 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.; do. (colonial), 7*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; dairy pork, 8*d.* per lb.; ducks, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per pair; eggs, 11*d.* to 1*s.* per dozen; fowls, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* per pair; geese, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* each; ham, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb.; lard, 9*d.* per lb.; turkeys, 5*s.* to 9*s.* each. Miscellaneous: Beeswax, 10*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb.; Colonial wine, 2*s.* to 6*s.* per gallon; Colonial jam, 5*d.* to 7*d.* per lb.; flowers, 2*d.* to 1*s.* per bunch; honey, 32*s.* to 34*s.* per cwt.; rabbits, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per pair; pigeons, 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per pair.

The rent of a dwelling suitable for an artisan and his family in Adelaide or the immediate suburbs varies from 6*s.* to 15*s.* per week, but in the country towns the rate is less. Large numbers of artisans, however, reside in their own freehold cottages. The savings of a few years have in many instances sufficed to enable them to accomplish this. Land is cheap, and the necessary advances for the erection of dwellings are readily obtainable from the several building societies. Cottages, with fuel and water, are provided for ploughmen, shepherds, and other labourers employed on farms or sheep runs. The following are quoted rates for house rent and for board and lodging:—

HOUSE RENT.

Two rooms, 4*s.* to 6*s.*; three rooms, 6*s.* to 10*s.*; four rooms, 8*s.* to 15*s.*; six rooms, 12*s.* to 25*s.*, free from taxes; single room, 2*s.* 6*d.*; ditto (furnished) 6*s.* to 9*s.* per week. Gas is 8*s.* to 12*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet; and water laid on, 1*s.* 6*d.* per 1,000 gallons.

BOARD AND LODGING.

Per week at Bushmen's Club, 18*s.*; at private houses, for single young men, shopmen, &c., 15*s.* to 18*s.*; clerks, &c., 20*s.* to 30*s.*; single females, 10*s.* to 15*s.*; private lodgers at hotels, 20*s.* to 4*l.* 4*s.*

Wearing apparel is procurable at the under-mentioned prices:—

Working men's black cloth suits, 39*s.* to 90*s.*; every-day wear, 29*s.* to 65*s.*; moleskin trousers, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*; tweed suit, 29*s.* to 80*s.*; jacket, 13*s.* to 40*s.*; waistcoat, 5*s.* to 11*s.*; trousers, 8*s.* to 25*s.*; boys' clothes, 15*s.* to 40*s.* per suit.

Meteorological.

The following tables give the mean monthly rainfall at Adelaide during the 36 years 1839–74, and the result of the meteorological observations made at the Observatory during the 10 years 1865–74:—

Months.	Rainfall (36 Years, 1839–74).				Mean Evaporation, Five Years.
	Mean.	Mean No. of Wet Days.	Greatest.	Least.	
	Inches.				Inches.
January - -	0·722	4	4·000	0·000	10·641
February - -	0·670	3	3·100	0·000	8·802
March - -	0·881	5½	3·753	0·000	7·608
April - - -	1·760	8½	6·780	0·250	4·474
May - - -	2·814	13	6·340	0·690	2·902
June - - -	2·915	14	7·800	1·138	1·795
July - - -	2·801	16	5·380	0·726	1·959
August - -	2·621	16	6·240	0·675	2·667
September - -	2·071	13½	4·640	0·711	3·427
October - -	1·739	10	3·834	0·460	5·981
November - -	1·263	5	3·550	0·100	6·979
December - -	0·894	5½	3·977	0·105	9·420
	21·091	114	—	—	66·655

For the Ten Years 1865–1874.

Months.	Barometer corrected and reduced to 32°.			Temperature.								Solar Radiation.		Terrestrial Radiation.	
				Dry Bulb.							Wet Bulb.				
	Mean, 9 a.m.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean Highest during the Day.	Mean Lowest during Night.	Mean Diurnal Range.	Average No. of Days Temp. exceeded 90°.	Mean Temperature of Evaporation.	Mean Highest in Sun.	Actual Highest in Sun.	Mean Lowest on Wool.	Actual Lowest on Wool.
January	29·813	30·152	29·245	73·7	113·5	47·1	86·4	61·0	25·4	10	61·6	135·2	164·0	53·9	38·5
February	29·860	30·250	29·347	73·8	110·0	47·5	86·3	61·4	24·9	10	61·8	134·1	158·3	53·6	37·5
March -	29·979	30·301	29·430	70·1	107·8	46·5	81·8	58·5	23·3	7	59·4	130·1	155·2	51·5	36·5
April -	30·010	30·366	29·404	64·6	98·0	41·9	74·5	54·8	19·7	1	56·7	120·7	146·3	47·3	32·5
May -	30·002	30·517	29·366	58·2	88·3	38·0	66·2	50·1	16·1	0	52·8	109·8	134·0	43·2	28·0
June -	29·998	30·533	29·191	54·4	76·0	37·0	61·4	47·4	14·0	0	50·3	101·1	125·7	41·0	25·0
July -	30·020	30·503	29·168	51·5	72·5	34·2	58·8	44·1	14·7	0	47·8	103·6	121·4	38·0	24·6
August -	29·995	30·492	29·110	53·7	80·0	34·1	62·3	45·2	17·1	0	49·3	111·1	130·5	38·2	26·4
September	29·920	30·383	29·096	56·9	84·7	35·3	66·4	47·3	19·1	0	51·2	117·0	138·4	40·3	25·1
October -	29·942	30·350	29·207	62·5	100·0	38·1	74·0	51·1	29·9	2	54·3	124·1	151·4	44·0	24·0
November	29·880	30·304	29·223	66·5	113·5	40·9	78·7	54·3	24·4	4	57·0	121·9	160·5	47·2	29·2
December	29·809	30·167	29·185	71·4	112·0	46·5	83·8	58·7	25·1	9	59·3	133·2	159·0	50·9	35·0
Year -	29·936	30·533	29·096	63·1	113·5	34·2	73·4	52·8	20·6	43	55·1	120·8	164·0	45·8	24·6

From which the following hygrometric results are deduced:—

—	Temperature of Dew Point.	Elastic Force of Vapour.	Degree of Humidity.
	Degrees.	Inches.	(Saturation = 100.)
January - -	52·8	0·400	48
February - -	53·0	0·405	48
March - - -	51·1	0·377	51
April - - -		0·363	60
May - - -		0·335	67
June - - -		0·313	74
July - - -	44·0	0·289	77
August - -	45·0	0·298	73
September - -	46·0	0·310	66
October - -	47·3	0·326	57
November - -	49·3	0·352	54
December - -	50·1	0·362	47
Year - -	48·3	0·338	60

Conclusion.

The general statistical table appended hereto gives the principal items of information, illustrating the progress of South Australia from its foundation. In glancing at this retrospect, one cannot fail to recognise the great success that has attended the enterprise of a handful of Englishmen, who, without adventitious aid, have, during a single generation, established a flourishing community, reproducing most of the social and material advantages of the mother country, and much of old world civilisation, conducive to the happiness and prosperity of a people. Fifty thousand men, supporting thrice their number of women and children, occupy 200,000 square miles of pastoral country, and possess 6,000,000 of sheep; own 6,000,000 acres of land, and grow 12,000,000 bushels of wheat; conduct an external commerce o 9,000,000 sterling, and raise 1,000,000 of revenue. Such is the material result shown in the thirty-ninth year of the colonisation of South Australia.

STATISTICAL VIEW showing the PROGRESS of the PROVINCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA from 1866 to 1875.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Land alienated.	
	Persons.	Males.	Females.								Acres.	Amount.
									£	£		£
1866	163,452	85,334	78,118	6,782	2,753	1,299	6,955	4,135	949,774	1,064,323	214,429	322,429
1867	172,860	89,991	82,869	7,041	2,939	1,379	3,651	4,046	716,295	1,003,272	144,020	163,787
1868	176,298	91,347	84,951	7,247	2,516	1,286	2,900	4,193	716,004	852,689	199,693	224,458
1869	181,146	93,860	87,286	6,976	2,211	1,211	2,807	2,724	777,351	802,252	223,050	*217,173
1870	183,797	94,928	88,869	7,021	2,544	1,260	2,302	4,128	657,576	736,818	206,052	*235,010
1871	185,626	95,408	90,218	7,082	2,378	1,250	2,532	3,182	778,094	759,478	424,138	*531,240
1872	192,223	98,481	93,742	7,105	2,896	1,361	2,401	3,405	697,442	700,200	414,745	*524,691
1873	198,075	101,540	96,535	7,107	2,631	1,562	4,548	3,172	972,814	839,153	357,594	*548,773
1874	204,623	104,870	99,753	7,696	3,434	1,611	5,557	3,271	1,003,820	1,051,622	461,451	*741,982
1875	210,442	107,944	102,498	7,408	4,136	1,663	6,593	4,049	1,143,312	1,176,412	686,050	*939,207

(*continued.*)

Year.	Agriculture.				Live Stock.			Import and Export Trade.			Staple Produce exported.			
	Total under Cultivation.	Wheat.	Hay.	Other Crops.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Bread Stuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.				£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866	739,714	457,628	111,339	170,747	70,829	123,820	3,911,610	5,693,879	2,835,142	2,858,737	2,539,723	645,401	990,173	824,501
1867	810,734	550,456	97,432	162,846	74,228	122,200	4,477,445	5,671,016	2,506,304	3,164,622	2,776,095	1,037,085	919,532	753,413
1868	808,234	533,035	106,644	168,555	75,409	123,213	4,987,024	5,057,810	2,238,510	2,819,300	2,603,826	568,491	1,305,280	624,022
1869	850,576	532,135	141,899	176,542	73,828	119,697	4,436,955	5,747,805	2,754,770	2,993,035	2,722,438	890,343	1,008,696	627,152
1870	959,006	604,761	140,316	213,929	83,744	136,832	4,400,655	4,449,281	2,029,793	2,419,488	2,123,297	470,828	902,753	574,090
1871	1,044,656	692,508	97,812	254,336	78,125	143,463	4,412,055	5,740,419	2,158,022	3,582,397	3,289,861	1,253,429	1,170,885	648,569
1872	1,164,846	759,811	115,704	289,331	82,215	151,662	4,900,687	6,540,194	2,801,571	3,738,623	3,524,087	860,202	1,647,387	806,364
1873	1,225,073	784,784	142,167	298,122	87,455	174,381	5,617,419	8,428,959	3,841,100	4,587,859	4,285,191	1,711,746	1,617,588	770,590
1874	1,330,484	839,638	160,931	329,915	93,122	185,342	6,120,211	8,386,145	3,983,290	4,402,855	3,868,275	1,230,331	1,762,987	700,323
1875	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,008,853	4,203,802	4,805,051	4,442,100	1,680,996	1,833,519	762,386

* Of which amounts 2,406,251*l.* remains on credit.

Total area of Province (exclusive of Northern Territory), 245,329,920 acres. Area alienated, 6,283,881 acres. Area still unalienated, estimated to be about 238,676,400 acres.

Statistical View showing the Progress of the Province of South Australia from 1866 to 1875—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping, Inwards and Outwards.		Rainfall.	Railways.				Main Roads.	Public Debt.	Postal.			
	Number.	Tonnage.		Miles.	Passengers.	Goods.	Receipts.	Miles.		Letters.	Newspapers.	Post Offices.	Income.
			Inches.		No.	Tons.	£		£	No.	No.	No.	£
1866	1,039	339,871	19·94	56	405,502	208,984	114,131	348	775,600	2,703,105	1,968,120	226	27,987
1867	1,136	343,819	19·35	56	444,089	266,705	125,583	416	1,077,750	2,804,118	1,924,760	248	28,495
1868	903	277,872	17·88	60	373,261	108,018	82,980	496	1,663,100	2,850,926	2,086,799	254	28,243
1869	1,112	333,507	13·85	72	390,637	159,699	90,626	574	1,781,300	3,052,757	2,086,777	270	29,850
1870	916	287,989	24·1	133	353,426	149,942	66,173	597	1,944,700	3,049,818	2,198,477	274	30,398
1871	1,238	373,624	23·5	133	384,389	211,683	110,963	614	2,167,700	3,162,774	2,212,620	286	28,756
1872	1,033	347,360	23·17	133	373,500	175,779	82,646	637	2,094,800	3,421,870	2,296,019	305	30,257
1873	1,531	515,640	21·6	133	529,362	273,055	142,427	653	2,174,900	3,989,847	2,515,534	328	35,744
1874	1,440	534,550	19·14	133	785,359	235,359	132,806	698	2,989,750	4,234,831	2,774,003	344	39,253
1875	1,634	611,381	31·45	133	1,071,136	331,900	176,098	884	3,320,600	4,451,525	2,950,997	357	43,205

(*continued.*)

Year.	Telegraphs.				Banks.		Savings Banks.		Municipalities and District Councils.		Churches and Chapels.	Public Schools.	
	Miles of Wire.	Telegrams.	Stations.	Receipts.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Depositors.	Total Funds.	Rateable Annual Value.	Receipts.		Number.	Scholars.
		No.	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£			
1866	1,565	121,153	58	12,413	3,620,062	1,715,395	7,679	266,700	719,806	81,377	492	292	14,690
1867	1,642	122,138	64	12,673	3,168,413	1,569,884	8,683	294,095	787,635	108,234	511	308	14,600
1868	1,642	110,400	65	11,223	3,234,209	1,549,195	9,659	333,875	867,737	90,329	547	325	15,567
1869	1,642	122,299	65	10,722	3,478,165	1,696,861	11,407	405,286	940,981	94,086	568	330	16,328
1870	1,718	128,485	73	10,649	3,343,780	1,462,516	12,569	448,658	920,951	86,499	579	300	15,108
1871	1,718	158,363	73	11,025	3,524,412	1,802,634	14,270	516,999	971,555	99,711	598	307	15,791
1872	3,731	170,902	86	14,684	3,509,452	2,010,183	15,955	605,688	962,921	101,946	607	307	15,123
1873	3,829	253,646	94	39,347	4,325,319	2,633,193	18,604	737,125	980,835	105,675	613	315	17,222
1874	3,900	268,240	102	35,247	4,736,674	2,714,212	20,600	782,864	1,045,711	125,351	610	320	17,426
1875	3,904	325,051	105	33,616	5,157,868	3,278,122	22,662	845,276	—	—	—	—	—

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NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 18.

The MARQUIS OF NORMANBY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Wellington,
March 7, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 20th ultimo I left Wellington for Hokitika in the Government steamer "Hinemoa" for the purpose of paying an official visit to that portion of the west coast of the Middle Island.

2. I have long been anxious to visit that district, and as the annual prize firing of the volunteers took place this year at Hokitika, I availed myself of the opportunity of attending the prize firing and visiting the district at the same time.

3. As your Lordship is no doubt aware the district of Westland is mountainous and densely wooded, and, as a rule, little suited either for agriculture or pastoral purposes; it is, however, rich in minerals of various kinds, gold, silver, and coal being those which at present are attracting the most attention.

4. Unfortunately the harbours along that portion of the coast are all bar harbours with only a small draught of water, and difficult of access, which greatly impedes the trade of the district.

5. I arrived off Hokitika about noon on the 21st, landed in the afternoon in a small steamer which is used for the purpose of crossing the bar, and notwithstanding a heavy rain I received a most cordial and hearty welcome from the inhabitants. On the following morning I visited the camp, which was situated in a very picturesque valley on the banks of the Arahura River, about nine miles from the town. I found there about 100 competitors, who are selected by competition from the whole of the volunteers and armed constabulary, and I am happy to say that this year the shooting has been more than usually good, and I append a copy of the return, which I think your Lordship will consider very satisfactory.

6. On the following day I left Hokitika to proceed by land to Greymouth, the distance by road being 45 miles. Nearly the whole of the country through which the road passes is auriferous, and much of it has either been or is now being worked, and it is curious to observe the vast amount of work that has been done and the skill and ingenuity which has been exercised to bring water for the purpose of washing. In some instances the whole face of a hill having been washed away by artificial races.

7. The Kumara gold fields, the discovery of which caused great excitement about 10 months ago, is situated about half way between Hokitika and Greymouth, and it certainly is a most remarkable instance of what can be produced in a few months by a gold rush. I found over 4,300 persons permanently esta-

blished upon the ground, and a town had sprung up which presented few of the characteristics of a new gold field town. The houses being more regular and of a larger and more substantial character than I have ever before seen on a new gold field. Three or four good sized hotels were already occupied, and numerous shops and stores of considerable pretension might be seen in all directions either completed or in course of construction, and after riding over a portion of the field I was entertained at a luncheon to which about 120 sat down in a large and substantial public hall. The whole of this has been the creation of less than ten months, as in June last the whole place was a dense bush.

8. What makes the rapid progress of this field the more extraordinary is, that so far no great amount of gold has been actually raised from it. Many, if not most, of the claims have to be approached by long tunnels driven into the sides of the hills, which takes months to complete, besides which, great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a good supply of water at a proper level for washing. This latter difficulty, however, will I hope soon be overcome, as means have been discovered by which I trust an ample supply will be secured, and this in the opinion of the old and experienced miners is all that is required to secure the complete success of these diggings.

9. This field was originally discovered by three or four men who managed to keep their discovery secret for about two years, during which time I understand that the average yield of the claim worked by them was 10*l.* a man per week.

10. From Kumara I proceeded to Greymouth, which, like Hokitika, is situated on the banks of a river which forms a bar harbour.

11. A short railway has lately been constructed from Greymouth to some coal mines in the neighbourhood. One mine has been in operation for some time, and it produces, I believe, the best coal which has as yet been worked in New Zealand. There are also two other mines which will shortly commence working, the coal from which it is hoped will be of a still better quality, as, although from the same seam, the coal is taken at a greater depth. The seam is a very large one, being 12 to 15 feet thick, and there can be no doubt as to the quantity which may be raised. The only difficulty I foresee is the question as to whether, taking price and quality into consideration, they will be able fairly to compete with the coal from New South Wales, as the bar at the entrance of the harbour is a bad one, and is frequently impassable, which will necessarily add considerably to the cost of shipment, and consequently to the price at which the coal can be put into the market.

12. From Greymouth I went to Westport, where efforts are also being made to open out a large coal district. About 15 miles of railroad have been constructed by the Government with the view of facilitating the shipment of coal. These mines are not as yet opened out, but I was shown various specimens of coal which

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appeared to be of a superior quality. The harbour at Westport is also a bar harbour, but it is much more sheltered than either Hokitika or Greymouth, and except with a northerly wind is generally accessible to vessels of not more than 11 feet draught.

13. The opening out of these coal mines both at Westport and Greymouth is exciting much interest, and great hopes are entertained as to the success of this new industry, and there can be no doubt that the production of good and cheap coal in the Colony, even if it is confined to the supply of the local market, would prove of inestimable value to New Zealand, and I trust that the attempt may prove successful.

14. The reception which was accorded to me as Her Majesty's representative was everywhere most cordial and enthusiastic, and I found the people uniformly contented, prosperous, and hopeful as to the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 19.

Governor the Right Hon. SIR W. H. GREGORY, K.C.M.G., to The EARL of CARNARVON.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
May 8, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the address with which I closed the session of the Legislative Council on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. GREGORY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ADDRESS of His Excellency the Right Hon. SIR W. H. GREGORY, K.C.M.G., on closing the Session of the Legislative Council, May 7, 1877.

GENTLEMEN,

IN closing the present long and laborious session, permit me now to place on record what I have previously expressed more informally, the very grateful feeling I entertain for the ready and ungrudging manner in which you have devoted so much of your

time to enable me to pass those measures which, at the opening of Council, I promised to submit to you. I have never received a remonstrance on account of the heavy burden I have put upon you. It has been borne with a willing spirit, and I congratulate you and also congratulate myself that the last session over which I have presided is one in which the largest number of important measures ever brought before this Council in one session has been passed, measures long promised, but, from a series of unforeseen obstacles, long deferred. It is gratifying to me to think that, though I have still left unsettled for the consideration of my successor two or three matters of much moment which require legislation, yet that, with two exceptions, all the measures which the Government has from time to time promised to introduce are now Ordinances, and only awaiting Her Majesty's sanction to become law.

In conformity with the course adopted by my predecessor, I shall now ask your attention for some time, while I lay before you the policy and action of my Government since I became Governor in 1872. In comparing the material progress of the Colony during the five years of the present Government with that of the seven years of my predecessor, I must beg of you distinctly to understand that I do so in no spirit of rivalry, but rather with the view to show that we have emulated his vigour, and that, having far more ample resources than he had to work with, we are able to show results which will not compare unfavourably with his.

Finance.

First of all, I wish to call your attention to the state of our finances. I found the revenue at the close of 1871 to be 11,216,790 rupees. I leave the revenue of 1876 14,676,000 rupees. During the seven years' term of Government of my predecessor the revenue increased by 1,431,867 rupees; during the five years of the present Government it has increased by no less than 3,459,210 rupees, and the first quarter of 1877 shows an advance over the first quarter of 1876 by a no less sum than upwards of a million of rupees.

The exports for 1871 were 36,348,535 rupees; for 1876, 48,102,363 rupees. Imports for 1871, 47,979,525 rupees; for 1876, 59,337,427 rupees.

The debt of the Colony in 1872 was 700,000*l.*; towards the redemption of this we have since funded 454,100*l.*, and the whole of this debt, contracted for the main line of railway, will be paid off in 1883. We have determined to contract a debt of 600,000*l.* for our harbour works, 200,000*l.* of which has been expended; and thus the whole debt of the Island is at this moment only 446,000*l.* All these figures show remarkable prosperity in a Colony which has to depend on its own resources, and is not affected by those streams of immigration which add so much to the progress of our American and Australian colonies.

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Besides the proof given by the revenue returns of the steady rise of the prosperity of the Colony, I may adduce another from those of the Savings Bank, which show that habits of thrift are spreading among the lower orders of the natives, and that their means of investment are increasing. The number of depositors in December 1871 was 4,583; the amount of deposits 943,415 rupees. In December 1876 the depositors were 7,184; the deposits amounted to 1,438,764 rupees. I have examined the list of depositors, and find it to consist mainly of natives of a humble class of life. It is clear that their confidence in the institution is increasing, and I consider they should be offered the advantage of a savings bank in every province by connecting it either with the Kachchéri or Post Office.

Pearl Fishery.

I must not omit here to congratulate you on the return of the pearl oyster to our shores, from which it had been an absentee since 1863. The gross amount received for the two fisheries of 1874 and 1877 has been about 280,000 rupees, and another very large fishery is expected in 1880. Considering the small amount of trouble and expense incurred in the maintenance of those fisheries, it is to be hoped that the favourable circumstances which have attracted these mysterious visitants to our shores may long continue to exist.

Administration.

I now turn to administration, and it will be found that the Government has taken in hand the improvement and reorganisation of almost all important departments. In the course of these changes it has been our earnest wish not merely to include a larger number of natives in the public service, but to improve the prospects of those already members of it.

Clerical Department.

The complete reorganisation of the Clerical Department has enabled us to offer in many cases better salaries, and in every respect a far wider field of advancement to deserving clerks and other officers of the junior class of the Civil Service, together with the security that promotion will be obtained not by favoritism and interest, but solely by desert.

Medical.

The Medical Department has had a liberal rise in salaries, and they are now on a scale which ought to secure as many candidates as our Medical School is able to contain. From the experience of the admirable working of the Medical Charities' Act in Ireland, the Government has been desirous of extending dispensaries in outlying districts as far as lies in its power, and for this purpose has given effect to the recommendation of the principal Civil Medical Officer to form a class of students to be trained as vaccinators, and to take charge of outdoor dispensaries. The strain

on this department by the visitation of cholera during the last two years has been most severe, but it has nevertheless well sustained the confidence which both the late and present Principal Civil Medical Officers have always entertained in the aptitude of the natives of Ceylon for the medical profession, and I need hardly remind you that this department is almost exclusively composed of natives—Sinhalese, Burghers, and Tamils.

Surveyor-General.

The Surveyor-General's Department has recently been greatly enlarged, and its administration for the future will be systematized and strengthened, thereby enabling that department to keep up in some measure with the formidable and varied demands upon it; but to carry out efficiently the multifarious tasks which are at the present time and which will be in the future imposed upon it, a further and not inconsiderable addition will have to be made to its numbers.

Department of Works.

It is, however, in the Department of Works that the most important changes have taken place. You will remember it was but recently that every vacancy was filled up by young Europeans. They were appointed by favour without any examination, and with little inquiry as to their fitness to be entrusted with the expenditure of large sums of money. Although much was done by rough and ready untrained men in the early days of British rule, yet of late years the increasing magnitude and cost of our public works demand that the department to which these works are entrusted should, as far as possible, be a scientific department. That object is now being attained. A considerable rise in salaries has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State in order to offer inducements to young and competent men to enter our Public Service. These men, though not chosen by competition, must have served under practising engineers, and are examined and selected by Mr. Hutton Gregory, our Consulting Engineer. We have had every reason to be satisfied with the care and discrimination he has shown in all his selections.

The interest of the natives has not been forgotten in the new arrangements. It is competent for the Governor to appoint on occasional vacancies two factory apprentices with salaries of 150*l.* a year as inspectors, and these young men, after passing the first prescribed examination, enter at once on 300*l.* a year, and take their place in the department. Another great reform in this department ought not to be passed over, that is, the giving to the very large class of overseers a status and defined position in it. Until recently the position of an overseer depended on the caprice of the officers over him. The best man might thus be cast adrift by a young officer without experience or knowledge of natives, and the worst man might be retained to obtain and abuse the confidence reposed in him. There was no advancement to which

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overseers could look with certainty, and the natural and inevitable consequence was that in too many instances the whole and sole object of many of these men was to obtain enough money in the shortest space of time to render them independent of their appointments. Now the overseers are divided into classes, they rise by merit, and they can only be dismissed after inquiry by the Provincial Assistant. Those who distinguish themselves and reach the highest class receive a salary of 1,000 rupees per annum and a pension, and are also eligible to become officers of the Public Service. It is sufficient to mention the names of Messrs. Sherman, Wellopulle, and Armstrong, the valuable services of the two former of whom we have unfortunately lost by death, to show with what success native gentlemen of ability and rectitude may be entrusted with important public works. The number of registered overseers, no less than 177, irrespective of the unregistered, about 200, shows how many skilful educated men are involved in this scheme, and what opportunities for advancemant it offers, if it be only carefully watched by the Provincial Assistants. The reforms indicated have already rendered this Department far more efficient than it was. It is to be hoped that the cost of maintenance of the roads may be largely reduced by their being entrusted to native overseers, who will henceforward have motives for activity and honesty. We also trust that the new system will be the means of introducing into it a considerable number of active and intelligent natives of good position.

Police.

The disbanding of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment has necessitated a very large increase to our police force, it having been raised from a total strength of 977 in 1872 to its present strength of 1,446, at an additional annual cost of 100,000 rupees. The augmentation of this force, and the alterations in it, may almost be considered as a reorganisation, and it will be universally conceded that under the vigorous management of its present head, Mr. Campbell, the discipline, knowledge of duty, and general conduct of this large body of natives have been constantly improving. It is obvious that every inducement should be offered to men of good character to enter this force, and proper house accommodation is necessary for them wherever they are quartered. I regret that I have been obliged to leave several stations unfinished, and above all that of Kandy. This latter, from its position, ought to be highly ornamental in appearance.

Civil Service.

There is one other branch of the Public Service which we endeavoured to take in hand and reorganize; I mean the Civil Service proper. In making this observation, I beg not to be misunderstood. I consider that no body of men can stand higher than the Civil Service proper of Ceylon in respect to attainments, energy, and gentlemanly deportment. The principle of com-

petition after selection, by which the Civil Service is now chosen, has been attended by a thorough and undoubted success but it is impossible for the members of it, as it is at present constituted, to do justice either to themselves or to the districts they administer. A revenue officer is sent to a station, where he hopes to distinguish himself by bettering its condition. His first object is to make himself thoroughly acquainted with his district, and to gain an insight into the character of the native officials with whom he will have to work. Having matured all his plans of improvements, and with every hope of carrying them into effect, he is too often after a short residence removed, owing to the exigencies of the service, to some other post, and a new man steps in, and all has to be begun again. I believe it to be entirely owing to the constant change of Government agents that the North-western Province has gained its unenviable reputation; and that had it been ruled by a vigorous man for five or six years consecutively, it would now be in a very different position. The Government is always strongly averse to these constant shifts, which are a great hardship to the officers so changed; but owing to the large number of Civil Servants on leave, and most of them on sick leave, it has not the means to apply a remedy. I received the full sanction of the Secretary of State in 1873 to endeavour to effect a reform by introducing three supernumeraries to fill up temporary vacancies. This plan would have answered the purpose, taking the then average number of absentees at six. It has however for the following years been over 9 and 10, so that I felt the change which I proposed would be scarcely a palliative. In justice to the members of the Civil Service and to the natives, I trust that ere long some scheme will be devised to put an end to the present mischievous practice of constant transfers, which is the crying evil of our administrative system.

While referring to the Civil Service, I may mention that there is one proposal still before the Secretary of State with which I would have gladly identified my Government, but upon which, to our great disappointment, no favourable decision has up to the present been received. It is to increase the salaries of the senior classes of the Civil Servants. The Government did not consider it to be necessary to make any alteration in the junior classes, the salaries of which were raised some time since; but I have, after the most minute and unbiassed inquiry, come to the conclusion that the senior classes are underpaid, that instead of being able to put by a portion of their incomes for their latter years, they are hardly able to live on what they have, and are sorely pressed to find the means to educate their children. We have not based this proposal upon the depreciation of the rupee, except as an incidental argument, nor have Civil Servants ever claimed or expected to be paid the high scale of salary which, from special circumstances, was established in India and still prevails there; but they have pointed out with irresistible force that salaries a quarter of a century ago, when the revenue of the Island was little more than one third of the present, taking into considera-

tion the comparative cost of living, were infinitely better than now, and that the Civil Servants were far more able to provide for their declining years and for their families than at present. Had I perceived that they were living at an extravagant rate, I should have recommended them to seek relief by reducing their establishments; but it is notorious that such is not the case. So far from launching into undue expenditure, they are hardly able to maintain the establishment suitable to their position, indeed I may say, absolutely necessary for their wants. The amount which I have asked for is but small, and I most heartily trust that one of the earliest announcements of my successor will be this, which I may well term, measure of justice.

To my very great joy the establishment of a Widows' Fund has at length been sanctioned, but as I only received the Despatch announcing Lord Carnarvon's approval by last mail, it is impossible to work out the many details before my departure. If it be necessary to grant a sum of money as a foundation to start the scheme, you will, I am sure, without hesitation vote the small amount required, as you cannot be insensible to the sad appeals which so constantly are made for assistance by widows of deserving officials, Native and European, but which under existing circumstances we have no power to entertain. In framing our calculations we have endeavoured to steer clear of an ambitious scale of pension and the onerous contribution thereby required, which has rendered similar projects elsewhere impracticable. All that we aimed at was to secure the widow of a public servant from absolute want, and I feel certain that if the pitiable cases which constantly arise could be made known to you, there would be no reluctance on your part to vote whatever sum might be wanted as a basis for the institution.

Legislation.

I must now ask your attention for a few minutes while I sum up briefly the chief Ordinances which have been passed since 1872. In 1872–73 the most important were the Licensing, the Medical Aid, and the Preservation of Game Ordinances.

The object of the first was to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors and the places in which they are sold, and as drinking cannot be suppressed, to ensure that it should at all events be carried on in a manner which should not offend public decency. This Ordinance was without doubt much required, but if its object is to be effected, the energetic co-operation of the police is necessary. It requires moreover to be narrowly watched to prevent its evasion by the establisment of so-called hotels, which are in many instances nothing less than drinking-shops.

The "Preservation of Game" Ordinance was not framed, as is often supposed, with the view of promoting sport, but of maintaining the existence of animals which ought to and which used to contribute largely to the food supply of the Island. It is well known that deer, which formerly teemed in Ceylon, and which in

time of scarcity proved a valuable resource, have, owing to indiscriminate slaughter, not so much by the inhabitants of the locality as by strangers, been almost extirpated. Our object has been to preserve such animals as deer and buffaloes during a portion of the year, and the framing of the enactment will show that this preservation is solely for the benefit of the people. I am glad to state that, according to reliable information, deer are becoming much more numerous than they were five years ago, and I am confident that if the Government insists on the attention of the revenue officers to this Ordinance, and that they insist on their headmen carrying out its provisions, the food resources of the Island will in a few years be much augmented.

I need not enter into the cause which rendered necessary the Medical Aid Bill. It is sufficient to say that its wants were universally acknowledged, and it cannot be denied that already much good has been effected by it. I should, however, be deceiving you were I to state that, in my opinion, the Ordinance is as effective as it ought to be, or that the work done is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. When the Bill was introduced, the object of the Government was to render it as little unpopular as a Bill involving trouble, interference, and taxation could possibly be, and with that view the Government desired that the planters should have the fullest opportunity of carrying it out themselves with the least possible intrusion on the part of the Government. I was never sanguine that the experiment would be successful, though I naturally hoped that it might be, and that the Government might thus be spared the necessity of taking on itself a work of so much responsibility and difficulty. At present there are many indications that the planters are becoming desirous of placing the Cooly medical relief in the hands of the Government. They find the attendance on medical committees to be a serious tax upon their time ; they complain that the object of the Ordinance is not properly carried out, and that the time of the medical officer is taken up in private practice instead of in attendance on the labouring population ; and many are of opinion that if the Ordinance were administered by Government, it might be effectively worked by native medical men at considerably less expense than at present.

I need hardly say that the Government have no desire to take such a burden on its shoulders, and to be subjected to constant volleys of complaints and representations against its management, nor are we prepared to take up certain districts and leave others in the hands of committees; but if the committees desire to transfer the administration of Cooly medical aid to the Government, it will no doubt be accepted, and I confidently believe that the results of one general system, with continuity of management and strict supervision of the medical staff, will tend to render this Ordinance less onerous to planters and far more beneficial to the Cooly immigrants than it is at present.

In 1873 an Ordinance of great importance was passed, an amendment of the Paddy Cultivation Ordinance. By the Ordi-

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nance 21 of 1867 it was, as you are aware, provided that the cost of irrigation works should be repaid in 10 annual instalments by the landowners. This payment, though readily guaranteed by them, was found to be impracticable in many cases, where the cost of the work was large and instalments proportionately heavy. The result might have been much hardship, but the later Bill to which I refer enabled proprietors, both as regards past and future engagements, to pay one rupee per acre as water rate in perpetuity, or less, if that amount exceeds 7½ per cent. on the cost of construction and upkeep of the work, viz., 5 per cent. on capital outlay and 2½ per cent. for maintenance and repairs. The cultivators have availed themselves largely of this very liberal concession. We have now three systems at work in respect to irrigation works in Ceylon:—(1.) Where construction is executed by Government and the cost repaid by 10 annual instalments, it being intended by the Government in 1867 to assess the landowners for maintenance and repair at the end of 10 years, though such intention is not embodied in the Ordinance. (2.) Where construction is executed by the Government and the cost of such construction and of maintenance and repairs is defrayed by a water rate of one rupee per acre in perpetuity. (3.) Where the villagers do all the work of repairing and maintaining their bunds, the Government supervising the work, and gratuitously supplying the masonry and iron sluice gates. This new system is so interesting in its operation, and is likely to be so much resorted to, that I shall at a later portion of this address again refer to it.

Another Ordinance of very great moment to the health and comfort of the Colony, I mean the Ordinance to restrain pilgrimages to Kataragama, was passed in the same year, and by it the Government has been enabled to free the Southern Province from the terror and pestilence which this pilgrimage would have brought in its train during the last two years when cholera has been rife. I sincerely trust the stringent rules which have been enforced since the passing of this Ordinace will be made permanent, and that a few sojourners from India will never again be permitted to gather together for purposes of gain, under the specious name of performing religious ceremonies, a large concourse of idle, ill-fed, and unclean pilgrims, whose advent has hitherto been the signal for those who dwell on the line of route to shut up their houses and to run away, and for all labourers to desert the public works on which they are engaged. Such is the terror of the contagion which has previously been spread by these invaders It is idle to allege the slightest similarity between these pilgrimages and those of the Bhuddists and the Roman Catholics to their respective holy places. The Bhuddists are of the most respectable classes, and visit certain sacred shrines, influenced solely by religious feelings; they are cleanly in their habits, and abstemious. They do not make their passage through the country a scene of revelry. In the case of the Roman Catholic pilgrimages, even at the time when cholera was not afar off, so

admirable have been the sanitary arrangements insisted on and supervised by the Roman Catholic missionaries, that disease has in no case broken out. CEYLON.

In 1874 the Ordinances to make provision for Colombo harbour, to amend and consolidate the Ordinances for the construction and upkeep of branch roads, and to check the crime of coffee stealing, were the most notable. The last has, I am glad to say, put a complete stop to the organized system of robbery of coffee plantations. This system had attained the proportions of a regular business. When coffee became ripe, the district was thronged with so-called petty dealers, who were nothing better than thieves and corruptors of the Coolies. Although the Government was unwilling to resort to exceptional measures, yet it considered that the existing law was not competent to cope with the growing evil, and we were confirmed in that opinion by the judges of the Supreme Court. We therefore passed the Ordinance, the existence of which has recently been extended for two years, it having, acording to the testimony of the magistrates, checked the crime in a remarkable degree. I may also add that it has performed this good service with no inconvenience to the honest trader, and so carefully has it been watched that corporal punishment has only once been inflicted under its provisions.

In 1875, during the short session, an Ordinance based on the Indian Act was passed for the acquisition of land, and I trust it may be the means of enabling the Government to obtain on fair and at the same time liberal terms such land as may be required for public purposes. The exorbitant valuation which prevailed under the former system in too many instances became a positive prohibition to public improvements, and several schemes which the Government had in view for the embellishment and sanitation of Colombo were rendered impracticable on that account.

The most important Ordinances during the period of my Government have been passed during the present session in 1876–77. Some of these have been for years under consideration, and had the life and health of Sir Richard Morgan been spared, several of them would have ere this been added to the statute book.

By the Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance the uncertainty and confusion which have hitherto prevailed as regards the matrimonial rights of married persons, especially in respect to real property, have been put an end to. It is unsatisfactory that the inhabitants of Jaffna should have preferred, by retaining their ancient code, the Thessawalamy, to expose themselves to the complications which must arise in consequence, rather than adopt the general reform. A pledge was, however, given to them by the Government that their wishes should be consulted, and much to our regret they declined to be comprised within the Bill.

By the Entail and Settlement Ordinance the restrictions on the alienation of real property will for the future be limited, land will materially be freed from the trammels which at present bind

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it, and it will be tied up for a period no longer than that which is sanctioned by the law of England.

The Registration of Titles Amendment Ordinance is one the beneficial effects of which will only gradually be perceived according as districts are surveyed and come under its provisions. It is the complement as it were of the Ordinances of 1863 and 1865, by enforcing the registration of titles as distinguished from the registration of deeds. By this Ordinance the disadvantages of not registering titles are so great that it is virtually compulsory, and I feel convinced that whenever it is introduced (and I trust the Surveyor-General may have sufficient assistance to enable him rapidly to carry out the surveys necessary for its introduction), it will become an effective check to the constant land suits and all the concomitant roguery and false swearing with which our judicial officers have to contend.

After much difficulty the Local Board of Health and Improvement of Towns Ordinance has been passed with general approval. These boards have power to levy taxes for certain purposes, and the Government has willingly placed at their disposal other sources of revenue. The Government feels confident that this measure will lead to great improvements in the towns which are brought under its provisions, and that their cleanliness and sanitation will be properly maintained. We were willing to have embodied a clause in the Bill giving power to the Government to contribute one half the cost of any improvement, when the expenditure exceeded 1,000 rupees, but this very liberal proposal was objected to in committee and struck out. We are, however, ready to execute such preliminary works as may be deemed necessary by us, in order to give the new boards a fair start; and at this moment drainage, the erection of market places, and the supply of water are being carried out in several towns which will be placed under the Ordinance ere long.

The Sale of Poisons Ordinance was passed to prevent the indiscriminate and dangerous sale of poisons which has hitherto prevailed. It is astonishing, considering the manner in which the most dangerous substances were constantly being sold in close proximity with human food, that more accidents have not occurred. The Government is not sanguine that this measure will prevent criminal poisoning, but it will unquestionably save human life from being sacrified by carelessness.

The Ordinance having for its object to amend and consolidate the law relating to notaries, is an endeavour to raise the status and position of a very important class; at present the profession is so overstocked that legitimate earnings are quite insufficient to sustain its members, and when a fraud has to be committed there is no difficulty in finding a notary to concoct and carry out the proceeding. It is the wish of the Government greatly to reduce the numbers of this class, to make it an honorable profession, and to take the status of the notaries of France as the standard which should be reached by the notary of Ceylon. If we cannot reach

that standard, we may at all events gradually approach it, by exercising the strictest supervision, and by unflinchingly cancelling warrants in all cases where disreputable conduct is proved.

Although the final arrangements to enable the Government to call for tenders to construct a line from Kandy to Mátalé have not yet been received, the sanction of the Secretary of State to this important undertaking has been conveyed to me by telegram, and I have passed an Ordinance this session to provide the necessary funds for this undertaking. I wish I could have announced also the passing of the Administration of Justice Bill, a measure with which I had anxiously desired to be identified. So many obstacles have hitherto occurred to impede the passing of such an Ordinance, which has been long and universally called for, that I dread future disappointment, knowing how much the success of such a Bill depends on the legal learning and abilities of its promoter. It would be a misfortune were a Bill so carefully prepared by the Queen's Advocate to lapse into other hands, and I trust he may be able early in the next session to add, if it be possible, to the credit he has already gained as a legislator by placing this Ordinance on our statute book. I am obliged also to leave unpassed an Ordinance which, as an indication of future policy, would have been of value. I mean an Ordinance to exempt from customs duties certain goods imported into Ceylon. When I left the Colony in January I appointed a Commission of inquiry into the present customs tariff, and hoped to have found the report ready on my arrival, supplying the views of the Commission and the information asked for. A Bill might thus have been framed and gazetted within a few days after my return. No report was however ready; the information I had asked for was not furnished; and when the report was finally sent in, it was still incomplete, and it was far too late to pass a Bill through Council before my departure, except in the most unsatisfactory manner. I made no secret of the object of this Bill. It was to have been the first step towards gradually reducing our tariff within a very limited number of articles, retaining a few large and lucrative duties and sweeping away the rest, with the aim of making Ceylon at some future, but no distant period, virtually the great free port of the East. Such a project may seem grand, but to those who have looked carefully into our financial prospects, it is not quixotic, and it would have been something for me to have laid the stone of such an avowed policy by at once striking 40 selected articles out of the tariff, and by a material reduction in the duty on metals which come in for general consumption.

Works

Breakwater.—I shall now proceed briefly to mention the chief works which have been completed and begun during the last five years; and first, both in priority of time and in respect to its importance, I shall refer to the breakwater. This great work was begun in July 1873.

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The whole of the rugged ground of Galle Buck has been levelled, and the necessary machinery and buildings have been erected. The large space which forms the root of the breakwater has been rescued from the sea, and is protected by a wall of composition blocks. This space will be hereafter of great value for the erection of warehouses, and will repay a portion of the outlay. The arm of the breakwater proper has been extended since the beginning of the year to a length of over 300 feet, and no difficulty or mishap has in any degree retarded the progress of the works. It is expected that 500 feet will be completed before the setting in of the monsoon. The Government has had every reason to be thoroughly satisfied with the energy and skill of the resident engineer, Mr. Kyle, and with the wise selection of Sir J. Coode in confiding this great work to such able hands. The first section is to be carried out as far as the Isaure rocks, and the time has now arrived when it is necessary to decide as to the direction of the further extension of the main arm, and if it be desirable that another arm be advanced from Mutwal. It must be borne in mind that the calculations of the returns from port dues do not afford much hope that, for a considerable period, they will be sufficient to pay the interest and sinking fund on the cost of construction; but I take a most sanguine view of the effect which the establishment of such a harbour, vast in space, secure in anchorage, with every appliance for the immediate discharge of cargo, will have on the prosperity of the Island, and I firmly believe that many who are here present will live to see Colombo a vast commercial city. It is impossible to forsee the results that will follow the conversion of an open roadstead into a port affording perfect safety and shelter at all periods of the year, with jetties alongside of which the largest ships can place themselves. It is not unreasonable to suppose that Colombo will become the half-way house to the far east and to our flourishing Colonies in the south. That it will be the resort of all the steam traffic with this Island, no one can doubt. Already the great French Company of the Messageries Maritimes have appointed their vessels to touch here, and the Peninsular and Oriental will be compelled to follow their example. I should deeply regret that having engaged ourselves in a work of such magnitude, we should be deterred from making it adequate to all future traffic, merely on the ground of an additional expenditure of about 225,000*l.*, which will be required to render it one of the finest and safest artificial harbours in the world.

The extension of railways through the coffee districts must produce a large increase of business in this port. The magnificent and by no means visionary scheme of the Duke of Buckingham to connect the continent of India with Ceylon by railway, a scheme the difficulty and cost of which has been so materially reduced by the promising plan of Mr. Kyle to run steamers carrying the trains by the north or south of Adam's Bridge, according to the season, is a prospect to which we may direct our eyes when our present railway difficulties are overcome; and, if you pursue the

policy of reducing, when the revenue permits, our customs duties to the fewest possible items, Colombo, as I said in a former sentence, has the prospect of becoming the emporium of the East. These are not merely vain speculations on my part; they are the opinions of mercantile men of authority and experience. Upon the success of the breakwater, and that success is undoubted, this large view of prosperity depends.

It would be unjust were my Government to take the credit of having originated this undertaking. It is due to the sagacity of my predecessor and to those by whose opinion his course was determined. He saw clearly that it would be a waste of the resources of the Colony to expend a large sum on the improvement of a harbour such as Galle, removed as it is far from the centre of commerce, restricted as it would ever be in space, and hopelessly incurable by reason of its natural defects. In spite of strong prepossessions at home in favour of Galle and of the powerful interests brought to bear in favour of it, Sir Hercules Robinson having clearly and (to use a word I once before employed) providentially perceived the advantages presented by Colombo, did not hesitate in his advocacy of this port, and left the question in that state that when it was taken up by me the chief obstacle had been removed. In his concluding address of 29th December 1871, he said to the Legislative Council: "The question of improved harbour accommodation for Colombo has been discussed with so much practical good sense, that I trust some definite move may now soon be made towards supplying this great and pressing want." My Government can claim the merit of having taken this "definite move," of having maintained and confirmed the views of Sir Hercules, and of giving effect to them by pressing them on the Home Government, by obtaining their consent, and by the immediate commencement of the work.

Railway Extension.

I wish that it had been in my power to have announced to you an equally quick decision as regards another undertaking of most serious interest to the Colony. I have already printed and circulated a full account of the course pursued by the Government in respect to the extension of railways through the coffee districts; I have shown by dates and extracts from despatches, that not one day's unnecessary delay is attributable to the action of this Government. It must be obvious to every one that the Home Government would not and ought not to have sanctioned any scheme involving so great an expenditure, unless it was clearly proved to them that the Colonial Government had used its best endeavours to select the cheapest and most feasible route, and that could only be done after repeated and careful investigations. In fact, these investigations were insisted on by the Secretary of State. I have shown you that the survey of what is called the Southern route, which was strongly pressed on the Government. by an influencial section of Colonial opinion, did not cause an hour's delay. Delays there have been; to the causes of them

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I shall not refer. It is sufficient to say that I do not believe there is a single person in the Island who now attributes them to the want of earnestness on the part of the Government. I do not hesitate, however, to state frankly that though, when railway extension was first pressed upon us, I was favourably, very favourably, inclined to it, if it were proved feasible, yet that it was the outbreak of that formidable and mysterious infliction, leaf disease, which forced upon me the irresistible conviction that we could not stand still unless we were prepared to acquiesce in the gradual decay of the prosperity of the Colony. To bring down coffee and to take up rice from Colombo has always been in my mind a secondary consideration in comparison with the vital necessity of enabling the planters to transport cheaply, without delay, and to any amount, the one ally, namely, manure, with which it is proved they can resist successfully their insidious foe. It is idle to say that this can be done by the ordinary means of transport. Planters of wealth and with appliances at their disposal can and do practise high cultivation, but in the case of many it is impossible. It is because I firmly believe the future of Ceylon to be involved in railway extension, that I have delayed my departure, hoping to make a beginning of it. I feel that it is impossible for any one without a thorough knowledge of the coffee districts and the critical condition in which they may be placed, thoroughly to recognize how imperatively pressing is the extension of railways to them. With a railway I have no misgiving that the planters will be able to hold their own against the ravages of leaf disease. The magnificent crops which I have recently seen in Dimbula are a proof of what high farming can do. If the means of carrying on this high farming be given to the planters, our great staple industry will stand firm; without these means, I dread to contemplate the future. Apprehensions, I am well aware, exist in consequence of the heavy cost which railway extension to Uva will entail. I am not deterred by the estimated expenditure on this line. I believe the estimate may be reduced, and even if it be not reduced, that with the guarantee given by the planters we may face it without apprehension. It was my earnest desire and ambition to have cut the first sod of this railway. I have been prevented from doing so by unfortunate circumstances over which I have had no control. I can only say that every effort will be made by me at home to demonstrate the necessity of the undertaking, and to remove whatever difficulties may still be in its way. I need hardly say that I consider it essential that the new line should extend to Uva, and that the trace of it should be continued by the full strength of the staff, when the survey of the first section is completed to Nánuoya. I have applied to the Secretary of State for permission to employ the Director of Public Works, Mr. Mosse, on the revision not only of this section, but on the laying out of the remaining portion of this line. His valuable report recently laid before you shows that the present trace may be improved and the cost materially diminished, and I have every confidence that the ex-

perience of Mr. Mosse in railway construction will enable us to surmount the difficulties which have hitherto retarded the final settlement of this undertaking.

As regards other railways, I may mention that my Government deserves well of the Colony. Although the extension of 17 miles to Náwalapiṭiya was determined on by my predecessor, the present Government has provided out of revenue the whole cost of the line, or no less a sum than 2,657,000 rupees, which now remains an asset of the Colony, paying 6¼ per cent. We have provided also out of the revenue a sum of 1,876,000 rupees, for the construction of a line from Colombo to Kalutara, a distance of 26 miles, of which 11 miles have already been opened, and the whole line will be opened in 1878.

It will be seen from this statement that within six years 43 miles of railway will have been completed at a cost of 4,533,350 rupees, viz., Pérádeniya to Náwalapiṭiya, 2,657,000 rupees; Colombo to Moraṭuwa, 1,001,887 rupees; Moratuwa, to Kálutara, 874,159 rupees—without one rupee of debt remaining on the Colony in consequence. But this does not represent all that has been done. Besides the sums already mentioned as having been or about to be expended on railways, constructed or being constructed, the Government has set aside 700,000 rupees to the credit of future railway extensions. Thus over half a million sterling has been expended on or provided for railways during my Government entirely out of revenue. I trust this policy of assigning annually a portion of our surplus funds to railway extension may not be discontinued. When we consider that we are obtaining 10½ per cent. net profit on an expenditure of over 24,000 rupees per mile on the main line, 6¼ per cent. on the extension to Náwalapiṭiya, and 8 per cent. on the short railway opened in February to Moraṭuwa, we have ample proof that we are not only promoting the material interest of the Colony, but are obtaining an excellent investment for our savings. I am not unaware that reflections are often made on the strict economy with which the administration is conducted, but these surplus balances have been the offspring of that thrift, and I assert that no necessary undertakings have been unduly deferred, that we have pushed on our public works as fast as hands could be found to execute them, and that the proof of this careful husbanding of our resources was the financial position of Ceylon when we recently entered the London market as borrowers, and were able to obtain for our 4½ per cent. bonds a premium of 4*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

Had I remained longer, I should have thoroughly investigated the condition of the Kalu-ganga river, the navigation of which I am convinced may be improved by resorting to the system adopted in shallow rivers in Germany. As it is, the construction of the road from Ratnapura to Nambapana, to which point there is at all seasons sufficiently deep water for a steamer to ascend the stream, will afford an outlet for much of the produce of Sabaragamuwa and Rakwána to be carried by water to Kalutara and thence by rail to Colombo. The cost of a steamer to carry 40 or

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50 passengers and 30 tons of goods with a speed of 10 miles an hour will not exceed 2,000*l.*, and by means of it and the railway the population along the banks of the river may reach Colombo in the morning, and return to their homes the same evening.

Public Buildings.

The principal public buildings erected in the Colony within the last five years are the Museum and Custom House and the offices for the Survey Department. No one can deny that each of these buildings is a credit to the designer. The first two were constructed from the designs of Mr. Smither, the Government Architect, and the last from those of Mr. Vine. As regards the Museum, it will bear not only comparison, but most favourable comparison, with every building intended for the same object which I have ever seen. Independently of its admirable structural proportion and elegant elevation, it is unexceptionable as regards internal arrangement, light, and ventilation. Its dimensions will permit the object with which it was conceived to be carried out, namely, that it should give a full representation of the works of nature and of man within this Island, together with an ample library of standard works, especially those referring to Oriental literature and natural history in all its branches. More than this we cannot and ought not to aim at. 64,000 persons have already flocked to visit it from its opening on the 1st January up to 1st April, which is a proof that it affords rational amusement even with its present very inadequate exhibition; and I trust the time will come when it will thoroughly fulfil the true object of a museum—to teach as well as to amuse.

Lunatic Asylum.

Another building, which will be a credit to the Colony, is already designed, and the site has been selected in an unfrequented part of the Cinnamon Gardens. I refer to the new lunatic asylum. It is estimated that this building will cost about 330,000 rupees, but 40,000 rupees or 50,000 rupees will be recouped by the sale of the old buildings and the grounds. The present building is a disgrace to the Colony, defective in the nature of its accommodation, in its incapability of drainage, and in water supply. The new institution will be free from these defects, will be far larger in its dimensions, and will afford a refuge, not only to many more insane, but to imbeciles and idiots, for which unhappy class no provision is made at present. While every modern appliance for the comfort of the inmates is provided, this building, whether the exact present plan be adhered to or modified, will be from its structural merits and the decorative character of the grounds attached to it, one of the future ornaments of this city.

I shall now, in order to give you a clear view of the remarkable progress of public works which the favourable revenue of

five successive years has enabled the Government to effect, compare the amount expended on public works from the year 1865, when my predecessor assumed office, up to the 1st January 1872, and the amount expended and to be expended from January 1872 to 31st December 1877. As I take credit to the Government for the amount voted in the Supply Bill of 1871, so I give credit to my predecessor for the amount voted in the last Supply Bill of his predecessor in 1864, and for purposes of comparison I have embodied the details in parallel columns.

STATEMENT showing Sums expended on Public Works from 1865 to end of 1871.

	Rs.
1. Upkeep—buildings, roads, bridges, departmental charges	9,849,561
2. New cart roads	3,520,120
3. New bridges	1,074,934
4. Irrigation works	642,593
5. Inland navigation, improvement, and upkeep	510,750
6. Prisons	196,315
7. Hospitals	360,087
8. Schools	15,840
9. Police stations	110,797
10. New building and alterations of buildings other than the above	473,275
11. Miscellaneous	323,167
12. Improvement to roads	590,679
	17,668,124

SIMILAR RETURN for Sums expended on Public Works since 1st January 1872 up to 3rd December 1876, including those voted in Supply Bill, 1877.

	Rs.
1. Upkeep—buildings, roads, bridges, departmental charges	9,797,019
2. New cart roads	2,404,267
3. New bridges	1,902,288
4. Irrigation works	1,767,903
5. Inland navigation, improvement, and upkeep	572,587
6. Prisons	632,058
7. Hospitals	527,636
8. Schools	120,596
9. Police station	111,759
10. New buildings and alterations of buildings other than the above	1,594,729
11. Miscellaneous	800,961
12. Improvement to roads	2,108,288
	22,340,096

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Roads.

First, as regards roads.—Among the entirely new roads I may refer to the very important one which is now being constructed between Lémastota, Wellawáya, Tanamalwila, and Hambantota, which will not only accommodate planters, but which will enable dealers to send up large supplies of salt from the last named place to the coffee districts at a reduced cost to the consumer. The new road from Rakwána over Bulutota Pass through Morowak Kóralé to Deniya, although only partially completed, has already been a great boon to the planters of Rakwána. It will connect the Southern and Western Provinces, and assist in opening a large tract of land adapted for coffee cultivation in the Kukulu Kóralé. A road has been voted, and a portion of it has been begun to connect Uda Pusselláwa with Nuwara Eliya, and thereby give a better outlet to this fine district and easy connexion with the future railway station, which ere long I trust you may see at Nánu-oya. The Government has shown every desire to meet the wants of the planters by freely acceding to their applications for grant-in-aid roads, and during the last few years Dimbula, Dikoya, and Maskeliya have been so well supplied, that it is not likely fresh demands will arise to any extent. Most glad, however, should every Government be to welcome such demands, indicating as they do the progress of European enterprise and the influx of capital into new districts.

Under the head of the large sums expended on the improvement of roads I may with some pride refer to the great northern roads from Kandy to Jaffna, and from Kandy to Trincomalee, which were hardly more than jungle paths in 1872, without culverts or bridges, and absolutely impassable in wet weather. The road to Trincomalee is now finished, and that to Jaffna, with the exception of the causeway at Elephant Pass, will also be finished this year. Those who have travelled over them will say that they are arterial highways of which any country may be proud. I expressed a hope that before the expiration of my term I should drive four in hand from Kandy to Jaffna, and had I remained in the Colony till then I should have carried out that project with perfect ease. The road from Puttalam to Trincomalee through Anurádhapura is being almost re-made with bridges and culverts throughout. The road into Mannár has been bridged, and a new and excellent road is being carried into Mullaittívu. Estimates have been sanctioned for the roads from the northern road to Trincomalee being put into permanent repair. When these works are completed, and the road to Kurunégala from Anurádhapura thoroughly renewed, there will be no demand for some time to come for further road extensions in the northern districts. Indeed I may say that though undoubtedly some new roads have still to be made, namely, one from Passara to Monaragala; two to open the Kukulu Kóralé; and a road partly on the grant-in-aid principle through Dolosbagé, yet the expenditure under that head will be trifling in comparison with that of past years.

Bridges.

Under the head of "Bridges" I may mention that sixty-six have been or are being constructed during the period referred to. Of these, 12 are over 150 feet in span. I wish here to put on record the efforts which I have persistently made to get rid of planked platforms for bridges and culverts throughout the Island. They are disallowed in all new constructions, and we are actively engaged in removing them along the old lines of roads as fast as means will permit. These plank platforms had not one single advantage, and the trouble and the expense involved in their use are very great, to say nothing of the constant danger arising from broken planks. Unfortunately some of the iron bridges purchased years ago in England are said to be too weak to carry iron-buckled plates, and the planks still remain; but I can fairly boast that I found Ceylon, as regards its thoroughfares, "planked," and that I have left it to a great degree, if I may use the expression, "stoned, bricked, and ironed."

Among these bridges I must specially refer to the magnificent iron bridge over the Kalu-ganga, 12 spans of 100 feet each, which is adapted for general traffic and also to carry the railway into the town of Kalutara. I regret that owing to unforeseen difficulties the cost of this bridge should have largely exceeded its original estimate; but I understand on competent authority that, even in spite of the supplementary estimate rendered necessary by the treacherous nature of the sub-soil, the sum of 564,000 rupees, which will be the ultimate cost, or 313 rupees per foot linear on a total length of 1,800 feet, including cost of land, is by no means unreasonable. It is expected that it will be open for traffic in July next.

Irrigation.

Irrigation works have been, during my Government, vigorously carried on. I have seldom met a finer sight than that of an expanse of 25,000 acres (as I was informed) of rice, all waving green when I first visited the Eastern Province, on ground which had recently been jungle, and the healthy, well-fed condition of the population shows the benefit which has been conferred on that province by the large outlay on irrigation works. I have also recently visited the Southern Province, and find irrigation to be thoroughly successful there. The complaints, which formerly were numerous and constant against water rate, have ceased, owing to the just and liberal manner in which these rates are levied; and the cultivators, instead of being hostile to irrigation works, as they were represented to be, have signified their wish for other works to be carried out, and their readiness to pay for them. It would be needless for me to refer to particular tanks and other works of irrigation, but there are two which deserve special notice. The great tank of Tissamaharama has now been finished, and by a dam thrown across the Mágam River it will always be supplied with water. The main object of this tank was colonisation, not to supply the wants of an exising population.

It was hoped that it would attract the inhabitants of the neighbouring district, who are steeped in poverty and constantly exposed to the most severe distress from want of water; hence the Government have been satisfied with the sale of Crown land irrigable by the tank, and has not exacted water rate. As the tank was only completed in July, the amount of land sold as yet is but small, but I have no doubt the undertaking will well repay its cost.

Kanthalai is another tank which was not repaired in order to meet existing wants. This magnificient tank was constructed by King Maha Sen about the year A.D. 275, and it is calculated that the works are on that enormous scale that it would cost over a million sterling to erect them. The amount at which its thorough repair was estimated was so trifling, compared with the vast tract of land irrigable under it, 23,000 surveyed acres of Crown land, that the Government considered it advisable to execute the necessary works, from which an immense profit might be derived within a short time by the mere sale of land. We have, however, considered it advisable to see whether these lands cannot be brought into cultivation and worked by a company. It is a matter of so much importance to set an example to native cultivators of good and intelligent farming, that we are prepared, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State, to offer most liberal terms to any company possessed of capital which is prepared to purchase or take on lease the land under this tank, and to bring it into cultivation within specified periods. Should such a company not be formed, the land will have to be sold by degrees, and already there are applications for portions of it. The eventual sale of 23,000 acres, even at the upset price of 10 rupees per acre, the water rate of one rupee per acre on this vast tract, and the tithe of the produce, will in course of time render the expenditure on this tank the most remunerative ever incurred by the Government.

As respects minor irrigation works, nothing can be more satisfactory than the success of the system of reparation of village tanks to which I have already alluded, by which the villagers are bound to do all the earthworks, and the Government puts in the sluice gratuitously. About 120 of these tanks will have been placed in perfect order by the end of this year in the North-central Province.

We propose to extend the same system vigorously in the Northern and North-western Provinces without loss of time. Indeed we are most ready to carry it out whenever the cultivators are showing a disposition for it by undertaking the preliminary labour. Already the good effects of this measure, which has been only two years in operation, are manifest throughout the length and breadth of the North-central Province. The inhabitants of it, until recently sunk in apathy and despair, and dying out from disease and inadequate food, have awakened as it were into a new life, and are working vigorously at the repair of some 700 or 800 of their tanks, in the hope of obtaining the advantages

held out to them by the Government. Formerly they were in the habit of cutting the bunds of their tanks whenever they required a supply of water, and the result was that if heavy rain fell, the weak portion of the bund where the breach had been made was carried away, and the whole store of water in the tank flowed off through it. The result was the entire loss of a crop. Now they can dispense the flow of water with the strictest economy by the regulating sluices constructed by the Government, and, the strengthening of the bunds and the construction of proper spill-waters enable them to store a far greater quantity of water than before. In consequence of this, a demand for more land has already sprung up, and I have not a doubt that in a few years the whole aspect of this Province will be changed. I wish to lay before you the returns of paddy grown in the North-central Province including Tamankaduwa during the last five years :—

	Bushels.
1872 - - -	- 117,479
1873 - - -	- 139,089
1874 - - -	- 73,499
1875 - - -	- 239,468
1876 - - -	- 313,459

Without insisting on any deductions to be drawn from these figures, I will merely mention that in 1874 what is now the North-central Province was established, and the repairs of the village tanks begun. You are aware that in former days this great district, now almost entirely in jungle, was the granary of Ceylon, and Knox, who wrote as late as the end of the 17th century, comments on the vast extent of its rice cultivation. But in the early days of the Kandyan kings a large portion of it enjoyed advantages which are now denied to it, namely, an unfailing supply of water. This was obtained from the great store tank of Kalowewa, which remains in an almost perfect condition to this day. Its bund is about 60 feet high, and is said to be 12 miles in length, revetted with huge blocks of stone in tiers. The circumference of this once vast inland sea is supposed to have been hardly less than 30 miles, and it was kept full by two rivers flowing into it from the hills. These gigantic tanks have been spoken of as if they were mere monuments of the overweening vanity of former kings. Monuments of despotic power, undoubtedly they are, but they are also monuments of most enlightened policy. While the great tank of Kalowewa existed, drought throughout the districts which were watered from it was unknown. Channels extended from it over 50 miles in length, and these have recently been traced; they conveyed an unfailing supply of water to certain large store tanks, from whence it passed to the minor village tanks, and thus cultivation was rendered certain. It has been calculated roughly that this great work may be thoroughly restored for about 30,000*l.* or 40,000*l.*, and in order to give it a beginning I have ordered the repair of about 13 miles

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of the channel to be undertaken, which will be useful, whether the chief reparations be carried out or not. I understand that a similar work, though not of similar magnitude, or involving equal expense, may be undertaken in the district of Mannár. It forms part of the Giant's tank, and would be filled unfailingly by the Aruvi-ár, the same river which flows by Anurádhpura under the name of the Malwatta-oya. It is well deserving of the attention of a flourishing Government, whether it may not be an act of wisdom as well as of duty to endeavour to provide the means of constant tillage to a population often on the verge of extreme want, and receiving aid from the general revenue in employment on works which are of but little value when executed.

I am able to refer with some pride to the improvements which by your aid I have been able to effect at Nuwara Eliya and in Kandy. The conversion, at the first named place, of the hideous swamp into a beautiful sheet of water, has been an undoubted success. An excellent riding road, which renders an expedition to the Horton Plains an easy feat, has been made, and the new rides, drives, and mountain walks, and the improvement of the race course and the ground within it, have all added to the attraction of our sanatarium, and have brought to it a constantly increasing number of European visitors. The military buildings at this station have now been handed over to the Government, and I am thereby enabled to offer to members of the Civil Service the boon of occupying for definite periods the house recently assigned to the Assistant Government Agent. The Secretary of State has concurred in this arrangement. The town of Kandy has been greatly beautified by the restoration of the works of the Kandyan kings, which had been mutilated and destroyed by the barbarity of English officials. The late King of Kandy, though a ruthless and bloody tyrant, was nevertheless a man of consummate taste, and in all restorations I may say that I have gone upon the lines laid down by him and by the guidance of old drawings. I should here be guilty of a great omission were I not to express my thanks to the municipality of Kandy for the constant assistance I have received from them in regard to these improvements, a portion of which they have executed out of their own funds. The enlightened manner in which they have during the short time of their existence managed their resources, the erection of a handsome market place, the large works for a constant supply of pure water and for the health and cleanliness of the town, are a convincing proof that municipal institutions can be carried on with success in Ceylon, provided that funds are forthcoming. I have little doubt of an equal desire on the part of the Colombo and Galle municipalities for the improvement and embellishment of their respective towns, and that want of means has alone prevented them from embarking in many desirable undertakings. It was my wish to have executed some works for the benefit of the citizens of Colombo, besides the deepening and clearing of the lake, which has much improved its shores, and the construction of the Mutwall esplanade. I expected to have been able to throw a

fine bridge over the lake where the road enters Slave Island from Galle Face, and to extend the road to a width of 100 feet through Bridge Street and Slave Island Patch, until it should reach Union Place. To do this it would have been necessary to purchase up the rookeries on each side, the hot-beds of filth and disease, and I estimated the cost of the land and the cabins at 15,000 rupees per acre; but when the assessment was made at the rate of 45,000 rupees per acre, it was hopeless to think any longer of the scheme. Thus one of the most promising plans for the embellishment of Colombo, for giving the means to the citizens of going from the Cinnamon Gardens to the Fort and *vice versâ*, without encountering the noisomeness of a bazaar, and for general sanitary purposes, fell to the ground.

Knowing how essential pure water is to health in the East, and how greatly cholera and dysentery are aggravated by the pollution of ponds and wells from which it is brought, I have, whenever I have seen my way to do so, erected fountains in the minor towns. Mátalé is thus supplied with one, Gampola with two; another is being established at Ratnapura and one at Kurunégala; and the Government agents are well aware that if they could have pointed out feasible means of supplying water to the towns which most require it, namely, those in the low country, the Government would have ever been ready to listen to their recommendations.

Prisons.

In respect to prisons, a large expenditure has been incurred, but it must be borne in mind that when I succeeded to this Government I found the prison accommodation not only inadequate, but utterly unworthy of the position of the Colony. My predecessor clearly indicated his policy, which was first of all to apply his available funds to the building and improvement of hospitals, and then to take in hand the prisons. I am confident that every one will approve of the course taken by Sir Hercules Robinson; but all who know him are well aware, that had his term of Government been prolonged, or had his means allowed him, he would with his accustomed energy have set on foot a systematic rebuilding and improvement of our gaols. That task has been left to my Government, and since 1872 we have built entirely new prisons at Badulla, Batticaloa, Puttalam, and Nuwara Eliya, together with locks-up at Haldummulla, Vavuniya, Avisáwella, Balapiṭiya, Kalmunai, and Point Pedro. A new convict prison, calculated to hold 500 inmates, and entirely on the cellular system, is advancing at Kandy, while large additions and improvements have been made and are being made at Welikada Convict Establishment, and to the gaols at Negombo, Jaffna, Hambantoṭa, Kalutara, Mátara, Kurunégala and Galle. In addition, three new gaols have been voted during the present Session, at Chilaw, Anurádhapura and Kégalla. There will still remain two gaols, which must unquestionably be rebuilt, at Ratnapura and Matalé; and, in my opinion, the whole of the internal structure of the important

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gaols of Mátara and Hambantoṭa should be adapted to the cellular system.

I am well aware that a difference of opinion exists between myself and many members of this Council as to the expediency of instituting the separate system within our gaols, and my own words have been quoted, showing that it is not long since I considered the association system to be best suited to an Eastern prison. As I admitted in my opening speech, I cannot deny that I did hold that view, but, as I then explained, I was led to it by the belief that the Indian prisons were constructed in wards on the recommendation of the ablest medical authorities, who were themselves influenced by a comparison of the sanitary results of the cellular and association systems derived from long experience. A recent inspection of many Indian prisons convinced me that I was mistaken, and already several of them are being remodelled on the principle of complete nocturnal separation. It can no doubt with truth be alleged that the minor gaols, in which association prevailed so late as 1873, presented far healthier returns than the chief convict prison, in which separation was supposed to be carried out. But in fact the cells in that prison had by gross mismanagement become wards, and three and even more prisoners were confined in a cell, the space of which was barely sufficient for one. It is no wonder that, owing to this and other instances of disregard for sanitary arrangements, sickness should have broken out, and great mortality prevailed. But at present, in the case of Welikada and of the Breakwater prisons, where but one prisoner occupies each cell, the Government has every reason to be satisfied with the sanitary condition of these establishments. I do not think the Council need be frightened at the expense which will have to be incurred in bringing our prisons up to that standard which by the universal consent of those who have devoted time and thought to the subject, both in Europe and in the East, is recognised to be the right one on the score of morality, discipline, and deterrent effect. Nothing can be more erroneous than to suppose that these "separate bedrooms," as they are sarcastically termed, are regarded as luxuries by their inmates. They are simply detested; they make prison odious; and the thought of a renewal of gaol life is dreaded in consequence. There is no necessity to launch into great expenditure at once. All that is necessary to be accomplished can be done within three years from this time without unduly circumscribing other and more directly remunerative undertakings. The average prison population of 1875 amounted to 2,606, that of 1876 to 2,407; but from these numbers are to be deducted women, civil debtors, road defaulters, and witnesses, in the case of whom it is unnecessary to insist on nocturnal separation, except under special circumstances. The total number of cells to be provided for will thus be about 2,000.

In 1872 I found in all the prisons of the Island but 438 cells; in 1877 there are at this moment, either completed or actually in hand, about 990, and there are 666 more provided for. There

remain therefore about 350 in round numbers to be constructed eventually before our prison system can be considered complete.

I trust that it will ever be the principle of this Government to employ our prisoners on useful public works, when severe and constant labour can be enforced; and that it will be possible to house bodies of them in temporary gaols of very cheap construction wherever such works are being carried out, such for instance as at the causeway to be built at Elephant Pass, and at two which will probably be sanctioned at Jaffna when that at Mannar is finished. There are at present 360 prisoners in separation in the Breakwater and Slave Island temporary gaols, and the cells have not cost more than 40 rupees each on an average. I do not think, if we bear in mind the amount which the Prison Commission considered necessary to be voted for gaols in 1866, namely 164,000*l.*, that my Government has hitherto pressed hardly upon you under the head of "Prisons," or that you will be unwilling to advance until you have made this portion of our administrative system creditable to the Colony. The words of Mr. Saunders, the Inspector-General of Prisons, in his annual Administration Report of 1875, are deserving of record:—"No one who has seen "our gaols, and who can remember what they were, can fail to "be struck with the wonderful change that has taken place in "them. Even as late as 1872 many of our gaols were houses "not fit for human beings. Even our best gaols were over-"crowded and filthy; two, three, four, and even five prisoners "being shut up in a cell only fit for one. In those days gaols "were not lighted nor patrolled. Clothing was dirty and in-"sufficient, and no system was observed in the management of "the prisons or prisoners. But how different is it now! And "the change has been brought about not merely by a liberal "grant of public money, but by the unceasing interest taken in "prison reform by all those concerned in the matter. . . . . "But notwithstanding all that has been done, I must add, there "is even more to be done in the next few years, and the expendi-"ture of money must not be refused, if the progress of prison "reform is to continue."

I cannot deny the accuracy of Mr. Saunders' statements. The prisons were until recently Augæan stables of corruption, lax discipline, and idleness. The prisoners were not turbulent it is true, but for the best of reasons, that they had nothing except confinement and light work to disturb their serenity. Now the strictest discipline prevails in every prison, the structural conditions of which permit it to be carried out. We are endeavouring also not merely to punish but to improve. In the convict establishments we are striving to educate our long-sentenced prisoners, and to teach the women various branches of needlework. We have recently given instructions to select a number of well-conducted long-sentenced men to be formed into an artificer corps, and to be sent to the different prisons in which masonry work is to be executed. These men will be allowed to earn some small trifle each week, and at the expiration of their

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sentence will have sufficient to maintain them until they can find means of exercising the trade they have learned in prison. We are much encouraged in our endeavours to reform our prisoners by habituating them to steady work, and by giving them the means of employment when released, by the fact that there is so small a proportion of reconvicted offenders among our prison population. I was much struck in Calcutta with the frequency of the convictions, which was denoted by small rings on the iron ring round the prisoner's wrist. Five and six of these rings were ordinary appendages; but on referring to our criminal statistics I find this satisfactory result, that of the whole number of our convicted prisoners (2,073) for the year 1876, there were but 171 in all the prisons who had been convicted over three times.

It was my wish to have introduced an amendment of the Prisons Discipline Bill, which is much required, but I found it impossible to do so owing to the pressure of other matters.

Hospitals.

As to hospitals, I have already mentioned that my predecessor had left this Government comparatively little to do, so admirable were the hospital arrangements completed by him; they would be a pride to any country, and reflect the greatest credit on the late Principal Civil Medical Officer, Dr. Charsley. We have, however, not been idle; we have constructed new and handsome hospitals at Mátara, Puttalam, and Batticaloa, and have begun one at Kalutara; we have built hospital refuges for suspected cases of insanity in several of our chief towns, and we have added largely to hospitals already existing. This last expenditure is most satisfactory, as it shows that the suspicions with which European treatment was formerly regarded, and which were sedulously encouraged by interested persons are gradually disappearing, and I have recently seen hospitals thronged with patients to overcrowding, which only a year ago were absolutely empty. It is to be hoped that under these circumstances it will not be long ere the confidence of the natives will be so thoroughly gained that the establishment of dispensaries throughout the Island will form an item of the annual budget.

In all the public buildings which have been constructed during the past five years it has been my constant desire not only to suit the structure to its object, but also to make the buildings pleasing in appearance by attending to proportion and to such ornamentation as may be conferred at a small additional cost. Much is said on the subject of art teaching, and undoubtedly, so far as one branch of it, architecture, is concerned, no more valuable lesson can be given than to accustom the eye to seemliness of form and appropriateness of decoration. It is as easy to construct a tasteful as an ugly edifice, if people can only be led to distinguish between what is ugly and what is tasteful. If all designs for public buildings, great and small, be invariably submitted to the architect of the Department of Works for his correction and approval, so long as we retain the services of a

gentleman of such refined taste and knowledge as Mr. Smither, every such structure designed or approved of by him will be an art lesson to the district in which it is placed.

Another matter under this head deserves notice, and that is, the expediency, in all cases, of constructing the residences of our public servants with an upper story. So far as regards the health of the occupants, there cannot be a doubt as to the propriety of this course. I have been informed by those who have had the benefit of the change, and who have thus been removed from earth-damp and enabled to breathe pure air, that the salutary results cannot be over-estimated. The first outlay is larger, but the heavy expense of repairs is subsequently much diminished by the reduction in the size of the roof, and the health, comfort, and vigour of our officials ought surely to be looked on as matters of primary importance—in comparison with which a slight expenditure is but as dust in the balance.

I have already referred under the head of "Public Buildings" to the new lunatic asylum, and I am happy to announce to you that besides the completion of this most indispensable work I know of no other serious outlay which will have to be incurred under this head.

Under the head of "Schools and Instruction" the progress of the Island has been satisfactory. In 1871 there were 180 Government schools; in 1876, 301. In 1871 the number of boys in these schools were 10,449; in 1876, 15,115. In 1871 there were 314 grant-in-aid schools; in 1876, 695. The boys in these schools in 1871 were 16,000; in 1876 there were 45,327. The per-centage of boys in proportion to the whole population was in 1871, 1·09; in 1876, 2·44. The number of girls in Government schools in 1871 was 1,478; in 1876 it was 1,836. The number of girls receiving education in grant-in-aid schools was in 1871, 3,520; in 1876, 8,882. The number of children receiving instruction in proportion to the population is small, but the movement in favour of it has clearly set in, and no more striking proof can be given of the desire of the people for education and of their appreciation of it than the rules of the village councils in which compulsory attendance on the village school on pain of fine is now being constantly enacted.

One remarkable feature in the educational system of the Colony is the absence of strife which rages both in England and on the continent in respect to the principles on which education should be conducted. Here we have effectually solved that difficulty. The Government schools are strictly secular. The schools of the different religious denominations are aided indiscriminately by the State on the basis of payment by results. They are at liberty to adopt their own mode of teaching and to use their own books, and the result of that perfect freedom is general harmony. A desire has been manifested, as I am informed, on the part of some managers of aided schools, to obtain payment for attendance as well as for results, and to lower the standard of examinations. I trust this desire will not be acceded to. The great fault in our

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teaching system is its want of thoroughness, and the neglect of exercising and strengthening the thinking faculties in the conveyance of instruction. I have constantly had before me boys who read with remarkable fluency, but who could give no explanation of, because they but vaguely understood, the passage they had read. This fault, I need hardly say, is not confined to Ceylon, but every effort should be made to remedy it, and the first step ought to be to substitute for our present very defective school books, such compositions as will amuse and interest and dwell upon the mind. The subject of the promotion of scientific education was in this session brought before you with much moderation and ability by the honourable gentleman who represents the Tamil community (Sir Coomara Swamy), and though the Government is not sanguine that at present many young men will be attracted to studies which do not appear to them to be remunerative, yet we are in hopes to make a beginning, first by liberally aiding managers of schools who establish science classes, and whose pupils pass a prescribed examination; secondly, by establishing a science class at the Colombo Academy. I consider that the lectures given to this class should be open to all students who desire to attend them, those who are not pupils in the Academy being obliged to pay a small fee for attendance, and all should be free to compete for prizes to be given by the Government. In looking forward to the educational progress of Ceylon, we are much encouraged by the knowledge that the natives of the country are not only singularly quick-witted, but that education is greatly valued by them. Not on one or two occasions, but constantly, and in the remote parts of the Island, have I been asked by boys, as the greatest favour I could confer on them, to send them to some good school. The tradition that every temple was once a school, and every priest an instructor of the young, is vividly retained, and no one who has visited Jaffna where the American missionaries have taught with such marvellous success, and who has seen the stream of pupils pouring out from the various schools at dinner hour, can doubt that education is certain in time to elevate the whole of the population, and that that result will be mainly due to missionary exertion. There is an impression on the minds of many of the people of this country, which is not only silly, but mischievous, and which should be authoritatively dislodged, namely, that all young men who receive their education in Government schools have a claim on Government for appointments. I was recently amused with the indignation of a Jaffna youth, who, writing in some newspaper, stated that among other grievances of the Jaffna people, the Government had treated them unfairly by not providing situations adequate to the learning and genius of all the educated young men in the Peninsula. I find this "Jaffna theory" not to be confined to that district, but to prevail elsewhere, though not so generally nor expressed with so much frankness. Native students should distinctly understand that the Government incurs no obligations by instructing them, that education is so good and great a thing that it should be

sought for apart from mere thoughts of gain, and, even looking to it from a money winning point of view, that there is not a branch in life in which the educated fail to overtop the ignorant.

Ancient Literature.

While on this subject I may refer to the action of Government in attempting to encourage the study of the ancient literature of this country. We have pursued with vigour the plan which was commenced by my predecessor, of examining with care the ancient libraries connected with the temples, and it is to be hoped that this work, begun by the honourable and learned Sinhalese member, Mr. Alwis, and continued by De Zoysa Mudaliyár, will be thoroughly completed within another year, and that whatever manuscripts have escaped the devastations of the weather and white-ants, and destruction by the hand of man, will be either purchased or copied, and find a place in the Museum Library. The catalogue of the manuscripts which we have already obtained, and which has recently been published, is a proof that our research has not been in vain.

We have entrusted the revision of the second portion of the Mahawansa, left untouched by Turnour, to two learned Páli scholars, Sumangala, the high priest of Adam's Peak, and the Pandit Baṭuwantuḍáwe. This is now completed, together with the variants of the text and also a translation into Siṇhalese. The translation into English has been undertaken by De Zoysa Mudaliyár. The revision of the Tíka, which is the very important commentary on this interesting account of the history of Ceylon, and the translation into Siṇhalese of the first 36 chapters of the Mahawansa have been entrusted to the same editors. I have written to Siam to endeavour to procure a correct copy of the Dípawansa, a history of Ceylon of earlier date than the Mahawansa, but have failed to obtain it. I do not, however, despair of its being acquired, and I trust it will be edited in the same manner, and that continued encouragement will be given to learned natives to cultivate and make known the ancient literature of Ceylon. It is gratifying to remark the movement in this direction which has recently taken place, and it is still more gratifying to note that this movement has altogether originated among the natives, and is being carried on entirely by their agency. A Páli library has been established at Kandy, and a valuable collection of manuscripts has already been obtained for it partly by gift and partly by purchase. It is supported by the subscriptions of the Kandyans, and the Government has been able to assist them by granting the use of an excellent room for students and for the storing of the books. In Colombo a college has been recently founded for the study of Páli, Elu, and Sanskrit, and the attendance both of priests and of laymen is already large. The name of its president, Sumangala, as well known to European Páli students as in Ceylon, is a guarantee that under his auspices the teaching will be sound and accurate, and I am confident you

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will warmly approve of the course I have pursued in granting to it an allowance of 600 rupees, which will probably be continued annually so long as the institution is efficiently conducted.

I cannot conclude this branch of my address without alluding to the work, too long delayed but now prosecuted vigorously, of procuring trustworthy copies of all our ancient inscriptions, which have been spared from the devastating hand of time and of man. This work has fortunately been entrusted to able hands. In Dr. Goldschmidt we have a man thoroughly competent for and deeply interested in the undertaking. Although his researches as yet have not been attended with discoveries of much historical value, still they are fraught with interest to the philologist, and the "Corpus Inscriptionum Zeylanicarum" which is to be edited by us has already aroused expectation in Europe, and has formed the subject of commentary in literary journals.*

Telegraph.

In respect to telegraphic communication, there were in 1872 601 miles constructed; at present there are actually in operation 760 miles of wire and 12 miles voted. The mode of dealing with new stations in some Australian colonies might well be adopted here. Applications come to this Government from various places through which the wire passes, asking for a station, but they are refused on the ground that the expense would exceed the receipts. In all such cases, in the Colonies to which I refer, the applicants offer to make good any deficit, and the country thus becomes studded with telegraph stations which in time pay their way. You are aware that in 1873 it was proposed in this Council by an unofficial member, that Ceylon should resume the management of its telegraph, which is now conducted by the Government of India, and that the proposal was at first sight generally approved. Subsequent investigation, however, convinced me, though there was much to be alleged in favour of such a course, that it was inexpedient for us to sever ourselves from India. I gave my reasons in full in my opening address of 1874 for this change of view. In 1873 it was supposed, but most erroneously, that India was profiting considerably by the transaction, and that, were we to re-assume the working of our lines, that profit would be available for their improvement. I then stated "that a considerable "time must elapse ere we could get together the number of "trained men whom we required; that though a competent head "might be obtained from England, yet in case of sickness or "leave of absence the department might fall into incompetent "hands, and serious inconvenience be the result; and, above all, "that a break in the unity of management, and consequently a "break in responsibility, was to be deprecated." There are some

* Since this was printed I regret to mention that I have received a telegram announcing the untimely death of Dr. Goldschmidt from fever this morning. The literary world has lost thereby a most eminent scholar, one whose reputation was about to be widely spread, and I fear that we shall also lose the fruit of much of his recent labours.

questions still pending between us, but the Indian Government is prepared to act with such fairness, and is so desirous of working harmoniously with us, that I have not the least doubt but that these differences will be settled in a manner satisfactory to both parties, if the present arrangement is to be maintained. I consider, however, that this is a matter which should be decided by my successor, and I have left it for his consideration. Besides the extensions which have been voted in the present session, there still remains to be undertaken a second line to Galle from Badulla viâ Haldummulla and Rakwána, a distance of 162 miles, which in my opening address I stated would cost 66,560 rupees. I fear, however, that this estimate was much below the mark, and I cannot too strongly impress on you the expediency, on the ground of efficiency and cheapness, of constructing your future telegraph posts of iron, except in the neighbourhood of the sea. This opinion, which I expressed in my opening address, I find entirely confirmed by the most experienced telegraphists in Australia.

Forests.

Among the measures of administration during the last five years, that for the preservation of forests deserves to be noticed. The reports of the Government agents indicated such a reckless waste, and such widespread fraud arising from our faulty system of dealing with our timber, that there was every reason to fear that the supply would within no long period be entirely exhausted. In fact, as it is, so completely have all valuable trees been removed from the most accessible forests, that this Island, instead of being independent, as she ought to be, of foreign countries, is a large importer of timber. The wholesale destruction of our forests is not, however, merely or even chiefly due to indiscriminate cutting. The ruinous system of chena cultivation has converted hundreds of thousands of acres of forests into useless scrub. Nothing is more disheartening than after ascending an eminence in the Northern Provinces, where, as far as the eye can reach, all is a mass of foliage, to descend and find the apparent forest nothing better than low impervious jungle.

This is the result of chena. It is justified on the ground of necessity in consequence of drought, which forbids paddy cultivation, and I am ready to admit the justification. But this drought has been occasioned in a great measure by the denudation of hills and by the previous clearing of forests. We are thus ever moving in a vicious circle; the woodland must be burned in consequence of drought, and drought is occasioned by the burning of the woodland. That this is the result is clearly proved by the state of the numerous tanks in the North-Western Province. They would not have been constructed had there not been water to fill them; now, even when restored, they are rarely filled. Every effort is being made by the Government to check this system, which has ruined some of the finest tracts in the Island, but which recommends itself to all who are lazily disposed, as they have nothing to do save to burn the timber, scatter seed on the ground, reap

CEYLON.

the crop, and proceed again to fresh devastations. The Government has issued instructions that no licenses for chenäing Crown land shall be given, except in cases of necessity; and, on the other hand, we recognise it to be our duty, in the first instance, to promote irrigation throughout the distressed districts, and to set apart certain lands for chena where rice cultivation of sufficient extent for the population cannot be effected. A detached body of surveyors is now employed on this work, and in selected districts a fixed quantity of inalienable land is being assigned to each village where the community can make regulations for its cultivation. The appointment of trained foresters for the provinces from which our future timber supplies will have to be drawn, and the suppression of fraud which has followed these appointments, make me sanguine that in time we shall be able to supply our own wants, and that timber will form a substantial portion of our revenue. I do not contemplate any replanting of the vast space now denuded of all valuable trees; it will be sufficient to preserve the saplings which are taking their place, and to send into the market the many useful kinds of timber which have hitherto, in many instances, been erroneously classed as of inferior quality. We are endeavouring to plant in the vicinity of each tank small teak gardens, and the success which has attended an experiment made by Mr. Elliott in the neighbourhood of Mátara, and the growth of the teak trees planted by the Dutch, encourage the Government to hope that this valuable timber will, if carefully attended to, be largely spread throughout the Island.

Elephants.

The constant and wholesale destruction of elephants has aroused the attention of the Government, and the Secretary of State has expressed his warm approval of the course which has been adopted, namely, to refuse all licenses for capture of these animals for exportation, as well as licenses for shooting, except in cases where mischief is being done by herds to crops and to public works, or when single elephants are dangerous to the public safety, in which latter case a reward is offered for the destruction of the offender. It is to be hoped that these precautions will save these useful and, generally speaking, harmless animals from the extermination with which they were threatened, and that the Department of Works, which at present has much less than the requisite number, will always be able to obtain a supply of them without difficulty.

Village Councils.

I am glad to be able to report to you that, in my opinion, the working of the village council system is an undoubted success. I have closely watched the proceedings of these institutions, and I am rejoiced to be able to say that no complaints have been made as to the honesty of their judicial decisions. Mistakes, no doubt, there are many, if they are to be judged by the standard of English legal procedure, but, on the whole, it cannot be doubted that

much rough and ready justice is being administered. I am aware that it is contended that these tribunals have not diminished cases in the police court, but, without accepting the accuracy of that statement, I consider that the prompt settlement of local quarrels has undoubtedly been the means of allaying angry feelings which might have resulted in serious crime. There can also be no doubt that the administrative portion of the councils' functions has been attended with excellent results, and that most useful regulations have been framed and set on foot for the social requirements of the community. That these village councils are in accordance with Native feelings is proved by the desire evinced throughout the Island for their establishment, and by their rapid increase. In 1871 there were none, and at the close of 1876 there were 30, representing districts with no less a population than 794,216, or nearly one-third of the whole community. I need hardly, however, point out that these institutions must be closely watched, or they may be made instruments for oppression and corruption, and one of the functions of the new Assistant District Judge, whose appointment has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, is to examine into and report at times upon the manner in which the work of these tribunals is being performed.

Assistant Agents.

The appointment of two new Assistant Agencies of Kalutara and of Negombo, in the Western Province, was a useful measure, and met with your approval. The increased supervision of these populous and important districts cannot fail to be of much advantage to them, and a relief to the heavily-worked Government Agent of the Western Province.

North-Central Province.

The district of Nuwarakaláwiya has been separated from the Northern Province, with which it had no natural connexion, and has, with a portion of the Eastern, been formed into a new Province. In spite of the well-known energy of the Government Agent of the Northern Province, Mr. Twynam, it was impossible that this great district could be governed from Jaffna with that care and attention which were requisite to rescue it from the extinction which threatened its population. Thanks to the great ability with which Mr. Dickson, the Government Agent, has managed this new Province, it presents a totally different appearance from what it did in 1872. The inhabitants, who were then sunk, as I before remarked, in apathy, almost in despair—the result of want and concomitant disease—are now alert and working with the greatest industry in the repair of hundreds of their tanks. The expenditure of public money on roads and buildings has widened their sphere of wants, and the returns of the revenue of this young Province show that in the coming year there is every likelihood of its revenue exceeding its ordinary expenditure. The success of this experiment has induced the Government to

CEYLON

establish an additional Assistant Agency in the Northern Province, at Vavuniya-Vilánkulam, with the view of vigorously introducing the new village tank irrigation system. It was thought possible that the Assistant Agency at Mullaittivu might be then dispensed with, but the Government has considered that it would be unwise to leave the capital of that large maritime district without a resident revenue officer. I presume that the public buildings and the residence of the Assistant Agent at Vavuniya are now sufficiently near completion to admit of the appointment being filled up. Though I may never see the result of these changes, I trust they will be as successful as those in the North-Central Province, and that I may read hereafter of the revival of the sadly depressed Tamil districts of the North.

Sale of Spirits.

I am confident you will give me credit for having done all that lay in my power, during my five years of government, to suppress drunkenness. The large increase of arrack rents during these five years proves that the drinking of spirits does not diminish, but grows from year to year. This may be readily accounted for by the influx of Indian labourers on public works, and the high wages paid to them throughout the country. With every desire to check drinking, it is impossible to do so, where Tamil labourers are employed, and it is best, if spirits are to be consumed at all, that the places where they are sold should be under the supervision of the police.

I have endeavoured to ascertain if intemperance has increased among the Sinhalese population, but am unable to furnish you with any reliable information on the subject. I am convinced that the true policy of the Government is to diminish as far as possible the number of drinking taverns in the rural districts. It is quite true that there may be thereby some illegal introduction of liquor into the villages, but the result is far less demoralising than the ever open arrack tavern, tempting and soliciting all comers. I am fortified in this opinion by recent inquiries in England, in which it is proved that the number of drinkers is determined by the number of drinking houses in a particular place. The amount of intemperance is in proportion to the amount of beershops and public-houses, and wherever drinking places are diminished a decrease of intemperance has followed. I have on more than one occasion expressed these views to you, and it is gratifying to find that they are borne out by carefully prepared statistics. Acting upon them, as I have done, you will find from a return presented to you, that in the last five years no less than 402 arrack taverns have been suppressed, and that whereas there were 1,403 in 1871, there are now but 1,097. Nor has the revenue suffered in consequence. The arrack rents of 1871–72 were 1,695,145 rupees; for 1876–77 they were 2,547,420 rupees. I think we can safely continue to try and eliminate taverns from the rural districts. It is undoubtedly a difficult task for a Government Agent to suppress them where

they have long existed and been much resorted to; but even this may be accomplished by degrees, and above all things it is most incumbent to mark with disapproval the opening of fresh taverns, except where they are rendered necessary by the presence of a large population. The map on which I have had marked all the arrack taverns in the Island should be hung up in this Council Room. Each year it should be revised, and it will be for you to comment on them if additions be made to these establishments, the fosterers of crime and misery, and to know the reason why. I am inclined to think that a very salutary reform may be effected in respect to distilleries, which are far too numerous, and in general the centres of drunkenness and lawlessness. There are at present no less than 212 distilleries in the Western Province, and 92 in the Southern. I had fully determined to inquire if a great reduction in the number of these establishments might not be effected—indeed, if they might not be reduced to three or four. I am not the least alarmed by the cry of monopoly that might be raised against such a course, which would deal a heavy blow to drinking. I am also of opinion that it is expedient that the price of arrack, which must now be sold at 2·34 rupees, and 2·56 rupees in the Central Province, should be raised. There can be no possible reason for keeping the sale of this spirit at the price which was sanctioned years ago, when every article of consumption was infinitely cheaper than at present. It is well known that pure spirit cannot be sold with profit at the price, and that adulteration is resorted to in order to comply with the license. Both the revenue and morality would gain by the change I have indicated.

UNSETTLED QUESTIONS.

The most important of the questions which remain unsettled, and which have now been before the Home Government for periods more or less long, is that of "Military Expenditure," a final settlement of which I was over sanguine enough to look for when I was in England in 1874. I am informed that, as regards military contribution, the Indian Government has either objected, or is about to object, to many items of the demands of the War Office, and it is clear that our case should be dealt with on the same principles as the Indian.

Colombo Water Supply.—I was in hopes also before I left to have set on foot works for procuring for Colombo a constant supply of pure water. Although I was not willing to tax the whole Island for the sanitation and comfort of the wealthiest community, yet I did not object to contribute liberally to the work, and to offer the credit of the Government to raise the necessary funds at a low rate of interest. I also proposed that a light parcel tax should be imposed at the port, and we confidently reckoned that the proceeds of it, coupled with a small increase of municipal taxation, would be sufficient to provide for the cost of the work. I am not, however, in a position to give you any information on the financial part of the subject, nor has

CEYLON.

anything been yet decided as to the mode in which the water is to be conveyed, whether by pumping from the Kelani River or by gravitation.

FUTURE QUESTIONS.

The questions for the future, which appear to me to be quite ripe for treatment, are—

Fiscal's Department.—1st. The reorganisation of the Fiscal's Department, in which undoubtedly many abuses exist.

Labour Ordinance.—2nd. The better distribution of the funds levied under the Labour Ordinance, by increasing the contribution to the minor roads; and I would here remark that I think it might be advisable to consider whether the same principle might not be adopted in the case of village roads, as has been adopted with village tanks, namely, that if the majority of the villagers profess themselves willing to make and maintain a road, the minority should be bound by that decision, and compelled to join in the work, and the Government should, if it think fit, undertake the art work, that is, the bridges and culverts.

Farming of Paddy Rents.—3rdly. The introduction of a better system of collecting the grain revenue by offering increased inducement for commutation. As a Commission is now sitting with a view to inquire into the whole system of the taxes on food, I am unwilling to make any remarks on the subject beyond stating my opinion that, from the information I have received from every quarter of the Island, no measure would be more likely to produce general disaffection than one imposing a universal land tax, and subjecting the Ceylon cultivators not only to make good the present million of rupees raised by the paddy rents, but also to provide an equivalent for the 1,760,000 rupees raised from the rice duties and paid by the floating population, who can be hardly said to contribute in any other way in return for the protection and advantages they receive.

Buddhist Temporalities.—4thly. A measure to place the Buddhist temporalities on a proper footing.

This subject engaged my attention so early as 1872, and I then entered into correspondence with the Home Government upon it. I thought, however, that it was advisable not to take any steps in the matter until the Buddhists themselves claimed the interference of the Government. Since then I have received constant complaints from influential members of that religion, and among other representations I may mention the powerfully written and influentially signed memorial from Sabaragamuwa in 1875. I therefore appointed a Commission composed of Government Agents and of natives of high position and intelligence, to inquire into the administration of these temporalities, in order to obtain information whether or not the revenues derivable from these lands (no less than 376,000 acres) were expended to the advantage of the Buddhist community. It was strictly inculcated on the Commission that it was not the intention of the Government in any way to interfere with Buddhist observances, or

either now or hereafter to involve itself in any question connected with the Buddhist religion. You are aware that the Commission unanimously report "on the necessity for the intervention of the "Government to put a stop to the scandalous misappropriation "of the temple revenues, and to the widespread corruption and "systematic fraud disclosed by the evidence." The Commissioners proceeded to state that "the evidence tended to show that "the incumbents of vihára and the chiefs of déwála fail to obtain "from these lands the same income which a private individual "would obtain; that the forests are denuded of timber, and that "the temples are unable to turn to profitable account vast tracts "of land which have been made over to them by the Ordinance "of 1846, and that there is nothing in the circumstances of "Ceylon which renders the retention of land in mortmain less "detrimental there than elsewhere." The inquiry disclosed such a general system of roguery and spoliation that it would have been marvellous how the Buddhist community could so long have acquiesced in it, were it not well known that they have neither the funds nor the union among themselves, nor the power of obtaining evidence, to enable them to bring the delinquents to justice. In such a case it is obviously incumbent on the Government to interfere, and, to use the words of Mr. Gladstone, "that "in handing over Buddhism to its professors, our duty is to give "it, since we must give it some constitution, an honest working "one."

The subject is one of all others in which native opinion should be consulted, and though the Government has not the slightest misgiving as to being able to frame a measure which will give satisfaction to all except those who profit by malversation, yet I have been unwilling, taking also into consideration the heavy business we have had to encounter, to introduce an Ordinance to meet the case, without giving full time for its consideration both outside and within this Council.

Ceylon Products.

Independently of the statistics which I have laid before you of the constantly increasing prosperity of the Island, there are gratifying indications that we are likely ere long to add to it by the success which is attending the cultivation of products other than our staple—coffee. Already there are more demands on the Director of the Botanical Gardens for cardamum and cacas seeds than he can meet; the cultivation of tea is widely spreading, and if up to the present time it does not figure among our exports, it is because its qualities are so excellent that it is consumed in the Colony at even a higher price than Chinese tea, as fast as it is manufactured. We who now see cinchona at every turn of the coffee plantations, growing vigorously and successfully, may perhaps remember that I announced as an interesting fact in 1872 that Mr. Harrison, of the firm of Keir, Dundas, & Co., had forwarded to me a letter from his London agents to the effect that he had sold a small quantity of cinchona bark for 2*s.* 6*d.* the

CEYLON. pound, and that the agents reported that there must be something in the soil or climate of Ceylon peculiarly adapted for the growth of this plant, so excellent were the qualities of the bark.

Among the projects which I had set aside for the next Session, was the enlargement, to a considerable degree, both of the scope and area of Hakgala gardens. Without wishing to interfere with Mr Ed. Thwaites's successful cultivation of cinchona, I think the time has arrived for conducting a continuous series of experiments in connexion with these gardens, on the subject of the culture of various trees, fruits, grains, grasses, which may be found suitable to our higher regions, and also as to the best mode of dealing with the unfertile patana soil from which these products would have to be reared. To carry out such experiments in a proper manner it will be necessary to procure from England not merely a theoretical but a thoroughly practised and practical cultivator. Before many years the present vast uninhabited tracts of our upper table lands will be traversed by railways, and homesteads will arise in a climate suited to European constitutions. How invaluable would it be, not merely to actual settlers but to the whole community, to know for certain to what uses these tracts can be best applied. If to pastoral purposes, how useful previous experiments in grasses would prove themselves to be! A knowledge of the cheapest and most efficacious manure for sweetening the patana soil, and of the hardy grass which might take the place of the present innutritious herbage, would be the making of an intended cultivator. As things stand he would have to grope his way through disappointments and losses. European fruits, peaches undoubtedly, would grow in the high regions, and it would be necessary to study thoroughly the mode of treating them and also their various kinds, so as to ascertain those which may and those which may not be cultivated with success and profit. As regards the planting of timber trees, it might be conducted with advantage if we found the most valuable of the rapid growing Australian Eucalypti to be fitted, as I fully believe they are, to the climate of the high country. I believe the positive advantages of this scheme, which I have but lightly sketched out, would be very great; nor should the negative advantages be forgotten, for unsuccessful experiments properly conducted by a skilled man, would warn persons about to embark in similar enterprises and save them from disaster. Moreover, it should not be forgotten that the Crown is the owner of the vast tracts I have referred to, and that it is for its interest to show that they are something better than unprofitable wastes.

The garden which has recently been established at Henaratgoda for the rearing of such products as require considerable heat will enable us to disseminate valuable plants among the natives, and if the Liberian coffee succeeds in the hot lowlands, of which I am sanguine, we can hardly foresee the strides in prosperity which this Colony may make within a quarter of a century. I look forward with deep interest to the time when the natives of the lowlands will contribute largely to the resources of their country, and will obtain for themselves, by their honest industry in rearing

tropical products, that ease and independence which their Kandyan kinsmen are obtaining by their coffee. Material civilization ever precedes moral, and the inhabitants of Ceylon as they advance in wealth, especially wealth obtained by steady industry, will not be content to remain in ignorance and superstition. They will look up with elevated vision, the result of education, and will aspire to the rights which conduct and education should ever claim. Most heartily will such a state of progress be welcomed in England. We have none of the jealously which is openly evinced by the rulers of certain foreign Colonies of the acquisition of intellectual strength by the ruled. Picture to yourselves the intellectual prostration of a race to which no career is open, and the torpor which must gradually envelop a people without one outlet for their ambition, whatever be their character, intelligence, and attainments. Can the mere security of British rule and a confidence in its inflexible justice reconcile any people to a sapless and enervated existence, where every fair field for exertion and activity is inexorably closed. To do this is to foster the very vices of indolence and untrustworthiness which we condemn. "Everything for the people, but nothing by the people," was once the motto of a large section of our politicians at home; but we have wisely considered it right to enlist in the administration of our country the intelligence and intellectual strength of the nation. "Everything for the natives, but nothing by the natives," is too often the cry in the East; but we can never know the real resources of this or of any other subject country unless we endeavour cautiously—slowly, if you will, but continuously—to enlist the capacity of the natives on our side, and through their means to deal in a considerate spirit with customs, deep-seated impressions, and prejudices differing so much from and so antagonistic to our own.

I make these remarks in no merely sentimental spirit. They are the exposition of the policy by which I have been guided. They indicate to you the objects at which I have continuously aimed, and I believe these objects not only to be essentially just, but also expedient for bringing into the service of Government elements of strength which will make themselves felt in those strata of native society to which English ideas and influence cannot penetrate.

Prince of Wales.

The event which most occupied the public attention of Ceylon during my government was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In spite of unfavourable weather during a portion of that visit, it is gratifying that His Royal Highness was pleased with the reception he received and with the good taste and beauty of the decorations which everywhere welcomed him; nor did he fail to note the right hearty ring of the native cheers which denoted the unfeigned joy produced by his presence. His Royal Highness carried away pleasant recollections of Ceylon, and the Sinhalese will long bear in their hearts loyal and pleasant

CEYLON. recollections of the gracious Prince who stepped upon their shore on the 1st December 1875.

In concluding this my last closing address to you, I must ask you to pardon, not only the extreme length at which I have spoken, but also the introduction of topics upon which I have dwelt on other occasions. I have, however, acted as did my predecessor, in reviewing the years of his rule, and I think it very useful that the last address of your Governor should be exhaustive, that it should touch on all subjects of public interest, that it should be a standard as it were of comparison by which the progress of the Colony may be measured at different epochs, and that in it not only should the governor give an account of the work performed by him, but that he should also clearly indicate the policy by which he has been guided in dealing with the various administrative measures introduced during his government. I part with you, gentlemen of the Legislative Council, with unfeigned regret. During five years that I have acted as your President, I have met with unfailing courtesy at your hands; not one single unpleasant incident has occurred, not one single unseemly dispute has ever called for my interference. I am justified in repeating that which I have said already, that I am well aware I have trespassed heavily upon your time in order to meet the pressure of public business, and in no single instance have you refused me your assistance; on the other hand, I am not without the belief that the unofficial members have recognized my earnest desire to give effect to the many valuable suggestions they have made, and that I have avoided, as far as I could avoid, opposing their united representations. We have profited not only by their support, but also not unfrequently by their opposition, and I trust so long as Ceylon is governed as a Crown Colony, that the unofficial members will maintain their manly criticism and independent supervision of the doings of the Government. I need hardly say that I cannot leave a Colony in which I have been so deeply interested, without carrying home that interest with me. If I can ever, either in a public or private capacity, be of use to Ceylon, I shall consider it a privilege to keep unbroken the link that binds me to this noble Island; and if my life should be spared, I hope that I may be permitted to witness towards the close of my successor's career the completion of your breakwater, the trains running over great mountains to Badulla, and many other improvements, of which his high reputation is a guarantee.

I now bid you official farewell, and I pray that God's blessing may ever rest upon Ceylon and its inhabitants.

No. 20. CEYLON.

The EARL OF CARNARVON to Lieut.-Governor BIRCH, C.M.G.

SIR, Downing Street, July 6, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir W. Gregory's Despatch of the 8th of May, transmitting a copy of the address with which he closed the session of the Legislative Council.

I have read this speech with great interest, and feel gratified at the indications which it affords of the continued advancement and prosperity of the Colony. The administration of Sir W. Gregory will always be memorable as having contributed in an especial degree to this progress, and I have much pleasure in placing on record my sense of the ability and unvarying attention which he has devoted to all branches of his public duties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

Lieut-Governor Birch.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1876.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1877.

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JAMAICA.

No. 1.

Acting Governor MANN to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, King's House, August 21, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1876, together with the report thereon, which had received the late Lieutenant-Governor's approval, but which had not been formally submitted to him for his signature before he became unable to attend to public business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. MANN,
Administrator.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the JAMAICA BLUE BOOK for 1876.

Legislation.

Fifteen laws were passed during this year. Of these, the following are of most general interest and importance :—

Law 1 of 1876. "A Law to repeal so much of the 9th section "of Law 5 of 1868 as relates to Houses belonging to or in "possession of the Colonial Government."

This law was passed with the object of placing all the house property of the Colonial Government on the same footing as house property belonging to private individuals, as far as the poor rate assessment is concerned.

In the year 1868 Law 5 was passed, whereby the tax on houses was converted into a tax for the support of the poor. In process of time, however, it became necessary to give to the parish of Kingston some material aid, so that the municipal board of that parish might be enabled to meet the unusually large expenditure for the relief of the poor which falls on it, and rather than again assume this class of expenditure as a charge on general revenues it was resolved to remove the exemption from poor rates in favour of Government buildings under Law 5 of 1868, and as there was no sound reason to be offered why this course should be restricted to the parish of Kingston, the law was made general throughout all the parishes in the Island.

Law 3 of 1876. "A Law to amend the Law relating to the "Probate of Deeds executed in Great Britain or Ireland."

The aim of this law is to remedy a defect which had arisen in connexion with the existing law. According to the Act 27 Vict.

JAMAICA.

c. 17. sess. 1. s. 1., deeds executed in England required to be proved before the lord mayor or chief magistrate of any city, borough, or town, and certified by seal of the corporation. When, however, the mayor or chief magistrate was absent, there was no power for the deputy mayor or deputy chief magistrate to take the probate. To place this matter beyond question, this law provides that deeds proved before a deputy mayor or deputy chief magistrate, and attested by the proper seal, shall be valid in the same way as a deed attested by the mayor or chief magistrate in person.

Law 6 of 1876. "A Law for the warehousing and identification "of Rum imported into this Island for exportation."

The enactment of this law was sought for in order to check a practice which had sprung up about the middle of the year 1875, unknown to all but the parties concerned, of introducing Cuban rum into Jamaica in bond, and exporting it from the Colony with other rum the produce of this Colony.

The provisions of the law will probably have the effect of stopping all further importation of Cuban rum.

Law 8 of 1876. "A Law to amend the Act 3 Vict. c. 39."

By the Act 3 Vict. c. 39. the silver dollar and its subdivisions were made a legal tender. A short experience showing that the circulation of the subdivisions was attended with inconvenience, that Act, so far as it related to them, was repealed by Act 5 Vict. c. 28. The silver dollar itself continued to be a legal tender, but was never really adopted as a medium of circulation. But a considerable depreciation in the value of silver having taken place, and the experience of neighbouring Colonies having shown that the opportunity might be used by speculators to import large quantities of the coin and force it into circulation to the injury of the community, and particularly of the wage-earning classes, this law, which demonetizes the silver dollar, has been enacted to anticipate and prevent such an operation.

Law 9 of 1876. "A Law to further amend the Immigration "Laws."

By the earlier Immigration Laws employers of indentured immigrants were required at the time of the making of the indentures to make certain payments and to contract to pay certain sums of money in advance in each successive year in respect of the services of such immigrants.

By other provisions of the Immigration Laws power was given to the Governor to constitute in any district comprising several estates in which indentured immigrants were located a union hospital for the reception of sick immigrants from those estates, and to acquire lands and to erect and maintain suitable buildings for that purpose. It was further provided that the expenses so incurred should be paid in the first instance out of the immigration funds, and that they should be reimbursed in the form of an annual rentcharge upon the several properties in the district to be fixed by the Governor in fair proportion to the relative numbers of coolies employed upon them.

By other provisions of the Immigration Laws it was required that the employers of such immigrants as should be sent to the hospitals constituted as above should pay certain dues for their nourishment and maintenance whilst there. It will be seen that there were thus three distinct heads under which employers of indentured immigrants might become periodically indebted to the Government.

For—

1. Payments for the services of indentured coolies (or for refusal to indenture coolies).
2. Payments for rentcharge to be fixed by the Governor.
3. Payments for hospital rates and dues for sick coolies.

As regards the moneys that might become due under the first of these heads, it was provided by the Immigration Act, 1858, that they should be a first charge upon the estates in respect of which they were payable, and that payment might be enforced in a summary manner by a warrant of distress and sale. But hitherto no such provision has been made for enforcing payment of moneys becoming due under either of the two latter heads.

The present law is framed to provide for that omission, and the summary remedy given by the Immigration Act, 1858, in the case of moneys payable under head 1, is by this law extended in the same terms to moneys payable under heads 2 and 3.

It may be remarked that, although this law makes the new summary process of recovery applicable in the case of moneys already due at the time of the passing of the law, it has no retrospective effect whatever in imposing conditions or liabilities or penalties of any kind, or in regard to the status of those who were employers of indentured immigrants before the passing of the law.

The Government having thus been invested with the power to recover all moneys payable under the immigration laws, as above, by summary process, it has been thought right to make special provisions to regulate the proceedings by way of replevin that may be taken by persons aggrieved by the putting in force of such process.

For that purpose recourse has been had to the provisions of Law 32 of 1867, "A Law to provide for the collection of Taxes," provisions which relate to like proceedings under similar circumstances, and those provisions have, with some slight modification, been made applicable to proceedings under this law. The modication consists in this, that whereas under Law 32 of 1867 the replevin bond to be given by the person seeking to replevy is to be approved by the Provost Marshal-General or his deputy and by the collector of dues, the approval here required is simply that of the Crown Solicitor. Since the passing of the law an objection has been raised to this last provision on the ground that it is likely to involve hardship and inconvenience, and it has been urged that the only approval that should be deemed requisite should be that of an officer of the court, subject to the control of a judge. Though it may be said that if the requirements as to

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the approval of the Crown Solicitor were strictly insisted upon to the letter in each individual case some practical hardship might arise, yet there is no need to adopt such a literal construction, and it will be easy to make arrangements under which the constructive approval of the Crown Solicitor should be given, as a rule, without difficulty or delay. On the other hand, the fact that the questions arising on replevin bonds relate not merely to the substantial character of the securities, but also to their sufficiency in law and to the legal capacity of the sureties, seems to point to the Crown Solicitor's veto as a not inappropriate security to the Government in a matter of this kind. On the whole, the conditions annexed to the acceptance of replevin bonds in this case, while of the same character as those required under similar circumstances by Law 32 of 1867, are more effective and less onerous to the person aggrieved.

Under this law the discretionary powers of the Governor to remove immigrants from estates where they are indentured, and to cancel their indentures and re-indenture them to other employers, are enlarged. Further powers are given to the Agent-General of Immigration to make and enforce regulations for the management of union hospitals in connexion with the Immigration Fund.

Power is also given to the Immigration Agent-General and sub-agents to take evidence on oath in inquiries which they may have to hold.

Law 10 of 1876. "A Law to amend the Laws of the Cayman "Islands regulating Appeals to the Supreme Court of Jamaica."

The Grand Court of the Cayman Islands has a discretionary power to allow or to to refuse to allow appeals from itself to the Supreme Court of Jamaica, and hitherto the Supreme Court has had no power to review the decision of the Grand Court on that point.

But a case came under the notice of the Supreme Court which showed the necessity of subjecting the exercise of this power to review.

The scope of this law is to enable the Supreme Court to exercise the power of review and give special leave to appeal where the refusal of the Grand Court shall appear to have been improper.

The law was framed to meet a case of existing hardship in which the Grand Court had so abused its power as to bring about a grave miscarriage of justice.

Law 11 of 1876. "A Law to authorise the Municipal Board "of the parish of Kingston to sell certain Lands belonging to "the city and parish of Kingston."

The object of this law is to vest certain lands which were formerly vested in the churchwardens of Kingston for parochial purposes in the municipal board of Kingston, with a view to the municipal board selling them and applying the proceeds of the sale to parochial purposes. Power is given to the Colonial Secretary to purchase any of such lands for public purposes at a fair valuation.

Law 12 of 1876. "The Kingston Gas Rate Law, 1876."

The near completion of the gasworks in Kingston erected under Law 31 of 1872 rendered necessary this complementary law, which provides for the establishment and maintenance of a fund to be called "The Kingston Gas Fund," out of which the needful expenses of lighting the streets of Kingston shall be discharged. For the establishment and maintenance of the fund the municipal board are authorised to fix and declare a compulsory rate on property in Kingston, and to collect the same under the sanction of the Tax Collection Law, 1867.

Law 13 of 1876. "A Law to make better provision for the "disposal of the undisposed-of Residues of the effects of "Testators."

The object of this law is to settle the question of the rights of executors in cases where a will omits to dispose of the residuary estate of the testator. Its provisions are framed upon those of the Imperial Act of 11 Geo. 4. & 1 Will. 4., c. 40., and it enacts that where there is no proper residuary bequest in a will the executors are trustees for the next of kin, and they are not to take beneficially unless it appears that the testator so intended.

Law 14 of 1876. "A Law to amend the Law with reference "to the Falsification of Accounts."

This law is framed upon, and is to the same effect as, the Imperial Act 38 & 39 Vict. c. 24. It is intended to meet cases of fraudulent falsification by clerks and others of papers in the possession of their employers or entrusted to them on behalf of their employers. Offences of this class have been found difficult to deal with under the hitherto existing provisions of the criminal law. It is provided that offences under this law shall be triable in the district courts, these courts having power to deal under Law 22 of 1874 with the cognate cases of embezzlement by clerks and servants.

Finance.

The accounts of the year 1875–76, excluding the immigration accounts, which are separately treated, show a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 42,856*l.* Of this surplus 30,735*l.* belongs to general revenues, and 12,121*l.* to revenues specially appropriated to particular services, such as parochial roads, relief of the poor, &c.

The following figures give the actual results of the year 1875–76:—

	£
General revenues - - -	457,168
General expenditure - -	426,433
Surplus - - -	30,735
Appropriated revenues - -	72,567
Appropriated expenditure - -	60,446
Surplus - - -	12,121
Total surplus - -	42,856

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Of the surplus of 30,735*l.* belonging to general revenues the sum of 14,100*l.* has been applied to the redemption of debentures issued under an old Main Road Loan Law, 24 Vict. c. 26., and the Rebellion Loan Law, 29 Vict. c. 4., and 10,457*l.* have, in accordance with the engagements of the Colony, been invested in the purchase of securities for the ultimate redemption of debt.

Immigration Services.

The revenue and expenditure on account of immigration during 1875–76 were as follows :—

	£
Revenue - - -	42,950
Expenditure - -	50,482

The excess of expenditure over revenue was met from moneys raised under the Immigration Loan Acts, by means of which also were provided the funds required to meet 6,800*l.* of immigration debentures, the period of currency of which expired during the year, and which had consequently to be redeemed, and an investment of 1,711*l.* was made in securities for the ultimate redemption of debt.

The following table shows the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year 1875–76, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding :—

—	1875–76.	1874–75.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	261,297	266,790	—	5,493
Light dues - - -	3,020	3,257	—	237
Harbour masters' fees - -	473	—	473	—
Rum duties - - -	95,480	97,056	—	1,576
Licenses - - - -	17,446	17,301	145	—
Stamps - - - -	16,495	15,115	1,380	—
Postal revenues - - -	15,875	15,035	840	—
Court fees - - -	8,943	8,047	896	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	3,694	2,679	1,015	—
Interest on securities for sinking funds - - - -	2,743	2,296	447	—
Ditto, other than as above -	3,744	5,231	—	1,487
Reimbursements for expenditure -	16,228	14,873	1,355	—
Miscellaneous - - -	2,349	5,643	—	3,294
Forfeited Chancery deposits -	9,381	—	9,381	—
Total general revenue -	457,168	453,323	3,845	—
Revenue specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues - -	36,597	37,219	—	622
Kingston street tax - -	1,347	1,195	152	—
Parochial municipal revenues -	6,080	6,319	—	239
Poor rates - - - -	24,314	21,216	3,098	—
Sanitary rates - - -	3,110	6,426	—	3,316
Fire rates - - - -	1,119	1,321	—	202
Total appropriated revenues -	72,567	73,696	—	1,129

	1875–76.	1874–75.	Increase.	Decrease.
Immigration Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Export duties - - -	20,509	19,780	729	—
Capitation tax - - -	15,723	14,384	1,339	—
Interest on securities for sinking funds - - - -	206	208	—	2
Other interest - - -	1,513	1,047	—	466
Contribution from general revenues	5,000	5,000	—	—
Repayment from „ „ -	—	23,500	—	23,500
Total immigration revenue -	42,951	63,919	—	20,968
Total - -	572,686	590,938	—	18,252
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Law 19 of 1875 - - -	—	23,500	—	23,500
Immigration loan - - -	23,600	—	23,600	—
Grand total revenues - -	596,286	614,438	—	18,152

On comparing the revenue of 1875–76 with that of 1874–75 a small increase of 2,717*l.* appears for the former year, but allowing for a windfall of 9,381*l.* for forfeited Chancery deposits, a decrease of 6,664*l.* appears attributable principally to a falling off of import duties and rum duties.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the import duties collected in 1874–75 were the largest in amount ever received in this Colony, and this fact was attributable in a great measure to the failure from the effects of the hurricane of November 1874 of the indigenous ground provisions cultivated by the peasantry, which failure necessitated their purchasing large quantities of bread stuffs, bread, flour, meal, and rice. The effects of the hurricane have not entirely passed away, but the provision grounds are gradually being resuscitated, and their recovery has naturally occasioned a falling off in the consumption of the four articles above mentioned; the decrease in the duty on these articles alone amounted to 10,067*l.* The failure of two of the largest commercial houses in the Island, followed by others in a smaller way of business, has also contributed to the decrease of the import duties. With regard to the decrease in the collections of rum duty in 1875–76, as compared with 1874–75, it may be remarked that the revenue of the previous year was unduly swollen at the expense of the latter, for while in nine parishes of the Island the collections of 1875–76 are in excess of those in 1874–75, and in four others the decrease is but small, in one parish (Trelawny) the falling off is 4,471*l.*, which the Collector-General accounts for by the circumstance that a rumour was circulated in that parish in 1874–75 to the effect that the Government intended to increase the duty on rum, which led the owners of large stocks of rum in bond to pay duty thereon, which naturally swelled the collections of one year at the expense of the other.

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Below is a table showing the Treasury disbursements of the year under report, both on account of current expenditure and on all other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year:—

——	1875–76.	1874–75.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	33,483	32,628	855	—
„ savings bank deposits	2,921	5,184	—	2,263
Pensions	11,366	12,593	—	1,227
Administrative departments	32,428	33,072	—	644
Revenue departments	32,763	32,106	657	—
Postal service	16,574	16,191	383	—
Judicial	34,704	35,287	—	583
Ecclesiastical	14,643	16,387	—	1,744
Medical	35,438	36,874	—	1,436
Constabulary	47,251	49,273	—	2,022
Penitentiary and prisons	29,609	25,947	3,662	—
Reformatories	4,894	5,900	—	1,006
Education	21,271	20,580	691	—
Harbour masters	130	72	58	—
Colonial allowances to troops	4,559	5,042	—	483
Pilotage and harbour boards	172	751	—	579
Miscellaneous	10,756	13,355	—	2,599
Steam communication with America	4,550	3,268	1,282	—
Stationery for public departments	2,747	2,948	—	201
Colonisation of immigrants	5,000	28,500	—	23,500
Public library and museum	526	372	154	—
Public plantations and gardens	4,933	4,966	—	33
Public works	71,622	74,686	—	3,064
Lighthouses	1,385	1,269	116	—
Parochial expenditure	2,706	2,631	75	—
Total general expenditure	426,433	459,882	—	33,453
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.				
Parochial roads	29,553	39,629	—	10,076
Kingston streets	564	564	—	—
Parochial municipal objects	2,019	1,268	751	—
Relief of the poor	24,205	24,597	—	392
Sanitary rates	3,135	6,624	—	3,489
Fire rates	970	371	599	—
Total appropriated expenditure	60,446	73,053	—	12,607
Total	486,879	532,935	—	46,056
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds	10,457	10,017	440	—
Redemption of debt	37,600	4,650	32,950	—
Excess of withdrawals over deposits	4,235	—	4,235	—
Total disbursements, exclusive of charges on Immigration Fund accounts	539,171	547,602	—	8,431
Immigration	50,482	53,585	—	3,103
Grand total disbursements	589,653	601,187	—	11,534

The expenditure, general and appropriated, in 1875–76, excluding the repayment to the Immigration Fund under Law 19 of 1875, appears at 22,556*l.* less than the expenditure of 1874–75; this has been caused by savings on pensions, on interest paid to the Government Savings Bank owing to the investment of a larger portion of its funds; by the disappearance of small-pox, on which there was an expenditure of over 4,000*l.* last year; to a considerable decrease in parochial road expenditure; and by reductions on other heads; but the savings on these items have to some extent been counterbalanced by an increased expenditure on other services.

Pensions.

During the year four pensions were granted in consequence of retirement from office, amounting in all to 215*l.*, and the pension list was relieved by deaths to the extent of 964*l.*

Debt.

No loan chargeable to the general revenues of the Colony was raised in the year 1875–76.

A further sum of 23,600*l.* was, however, raised under the Immigration Loan Acts on account of the Immigration Fund, and 15,000*l.* were raised by the Kingston Gas Commissioners, and 33,900*l.* by the Rio Cobre Canal Commissioners, to meet expenses connected with those works.

During the year 37,600*l.* of debt were paid off from surplus revenues. In this amount is included the sum of 23,500*l.* raised in 1874–75 to repay to the Immigration Fund the amount paid therefrom as bounties to coolies from 1868 to 1873 inclusive; of the debentures issued for immigration purposes 6,800 were redeemed in the course of the year.

A sum of 10,457*l.* from the surplus revenues was also invested in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt, and an investment of 1,711*l.* was made by way of sinking fund on the immigration loans.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenues stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last ten years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1867	718,952	18	10	1872	571,542	1	3
1868	706,964	18	0	1873	554,492	18	11
1869	686,830	9	2	1874	539,108	8	2
1870	609,505	11	3	1875	548,024	3	7
1871	591,656	5	6	1876	501,413	8	5

From this amount are excluded the loans raised for the following special objects, viz.:—

	£
Rio Cobre Canal	123,900
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks	128,200
Kingston markets	20,000
Kingston gasworks	25,000

The interest paid on debt amounts to 33,483*l.*, and was apportioned as follows:—

	£
On deposits in chest - -	8,987
On loans under imperial guarantee -	12,896
On Island loans - - -	11,600

The debt secured on the revenues of the Immigration Fund stood as follows on 30th September of each of the last ten years:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1867 - -	69,138	0	3	1872 -	80,564	16	7
1868 - -	64,175	14	3	1873 -	78,283	4	9
1869 - -	59,213	8	3	1874 -	126,428	5	6
1870 - -	56,138	0	0	1875 -	130,203	8	1
1871 - -	84,169	7	0	1876 -	145,292	8	5

In this last year, as has been stated, 23,600*l.* were raised on account of the fund, while 6,800*l.* of debentures, the currency of which had expired, were paid off.

The interest paid on immigration loans during the year amounted to 6,766*l.*, viz.:—

	£
On guaranteed loans - - -	1,526
Immigration further loan - -	5,240

Legislative Council.

During the year there were two temporary vacancies among the official members by the death in March of Mr. Barne, the Attorney-General, whose place was filled by Mr. S. C. Burke, who acted as Attorney-General until the arrival of Mr. E. L. O'Malley in August; and by the absence on leave for six months of General Mann, to whose vacant seat Captain Ferguson was appointed. Mr. Robert Nunes resigned his seat as an unofficial member in August.

Land.

During the year three properties, containing 3,649 acres in all, were taken possession of by the Government under the "District Courts Law, 1874," and squatters thereon to the number of 178 were ejected.

Land to the extent of 5,043 acres has been leased to various persons, and 3,423 acres have been sold.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on roads and bridges for the year was as follows:—

	£
Maintenance and repairs of roads and bridges - - - -	24,317
New works on roads and bridges -	6,336
Parochial services - - -	1,313
	£31,966

The expenditure on services other than roads and bridges was as follows:—

	£
Public buildings and miscellaneous repairs and maintenance - -	11,469
Do. do. new works - -	26,544
Lighthouses - - -	1,365
	£39,378

The amount expended under the head of maintenance and repairs of roads and bridges is 308*l.* below that provided in the estimates. This is due to the fact that some outstanding balances on contracts for maintenance during the year were not paid on or before the 30th of September last.

Main Roads and Bridges.

The main roads generally are in good order throughout the Island. The exceptions are the roads between Buff Bay and Annotto Bay, and between Dry River and Poms, which have suffered to an unusual extent from the late heavy seasons.

Among the new works on main roads which have been completed and have been in progress during the year the following may be mentioned:—

A bridge 22 feet span, to carry the main road over the Sulphur River, near Bath, has been rebuilt with strong iron girders.

Three footbridges have been erected over streams which cross the main road near Morant Bay, and one has been erected at Whydah in Portland.

The diversion of the main road at Kent Village (about midway between Spanish Town and Linstead) has been completed. This work was rendered necessary by the continued encroachments of the Rio Cobre.

The retaining wall of the heavy landslip near the same spot has been continued so far as to place the road out of all immediate danger. It is hoped that the work will be shortly completed.

The Glasgow Bridge in Westmoreland, which carries the main road over a gully, has been reconstructed.

The reconstruction of the main road from Hendon Hall through Saranna la Mar to the roadstead has been completed.

A bridge has been constructed over a gully on the main road at Long Hill, about four miles from Montego Bay, in substitution for a culvert which before existed there. Owing to the culvert not affording enough waterway in floods, the road was constantly submerged and damaged.

In addition to works such as these of a higher importance, much has been done in the way of erecting retaining and parapet walls, widening and piling parts of roads, and constructing culverts or paved waterways where none before existed.

Services other than Roads and Bridges.

Prisons, &c.—Twenty-four new cells have been added to the western range in the General Penitentiary.

A range of 48 new cells has been commenced in the Saint Catherine's District Prison, Spanish Town.

A new hospital, new solitary cells, and a new kitchen have been provided at the Mandeville District Prison.

Hospitals and Asylums.

Covered ways connecting the principal buildings at the Public Hospital, Kingston, have been erected.

The work of altering an existing ward at the Lunatic Asylum, whereby additional accommodation for about 24 patients will be provided, is progressing towards completion.

The new Lepers' Asylum near Spanish Town is nearly completed.

The Parochial Hospital at Mandeville has been completed.

Rio Cobre Canal Works.

The Main Canal, the Caymandas, Port Henderson, and Cumberland Pen branches have been opened for the supply of water, and it is expected that the Old Harbour branch will be opened in a month's time.

The Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks.

These works were handed over completed to the Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks Commissioners on the 1st of July 1876.

Kingston Gasworks.

The following buildings have been erected in connexion with these works:—

Retort house, coal store, engine, meter, scrubber and purifier houses, superintendent's residence, and gasholder tank.

Most of the gas mains have arrived, and they are now being laid. It is expected that Kingston will be lighted with gas in about April of next year.

Kingston Slaughter-house.

The works connected with the slaughter-house were handed over, completed, to the Kingston Slaughter-house Commissioners on the 1st of February.

District Courts.

The business transacted in each of the last eight years is shown in the following summary:—

—	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Criminal trials - -	1,256	1,712	1,831	2,473	2,679	3,210	3,545	3,862
Small causes - -	3,133	5,509	7,321	7,396	8,050	7,982	8,531	9,446
Judgment summons -	—	—	—	—	843	1,397	1,511	1,736
Equity cases - -	2	10	13	15	13	7	5	6
Cases under the Land Law	133	137	353	485	241	228	133	309
Bankruptcy cases - -	9	147	42	5	8	6	4	13
Probate cases - -	35	43	42	31	29	23	39	62
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed - -	22,919	29,070	35,958	39,896	41,148	50,325	52,093	56,490
Judgment obtained -	11,386	14,919	18,580	15,770	19,873	25,773	26,048	27,970
Costs - - -	2,109	2,774	3,350	3,493	3,810	4,212	4,812	4,952
Court fees - - -	2,154	3,225	4,424	4,432	4,600	4,721	4,994	5,597

There were nine appeals from the decisions of these courts, eight being in civil and one in criminal cases; judgment was reversed in two cases, two were dismissed for want of prosecution, and in five cases the judgment of the district courts was affirmed.

Botanical Gardens.

Castleton Garden.—The following statements show the number of plants that have been propagated in, and distributed from, the Castleton Garden :—

Plants propagated :—

Timber and shade trees - - - -	4,500
Fruit trees, &c. - - - - -	1,400
Palms - - - - - -	1,500
Cycads - - - - - -	60
Shrubs (in great variety, including roses) - -	4,500

Plants distributed :—

Timber and shade trees (almond, Michelia, mahogany, timber, sweetwood, Santa Maria, Casuarina, bastard cabbage, Mahoe, bullet tree, rodwood, &c., &c.)	1,450
Fruit trees, &c. (pine apples, limes, oranges, nutmegs, mangoes, cocoa, coffee, vanilla, mammee, &c.) -	1,231
Palms (Caryota, mountain cabbage, long thatched betel nut, cocoas, Sabal, Phœnix, Latania, Attalea, &c.) - - - - - -	270
Shrubs (in great variety, including roses) - -	3,632
Wards cases, England, America, &c. - -	14
Seeds, mahogany, palms, and cashew in large quantity, kinds - - - - - -	130

In estimating the usefulness of the garden from these statements it is to be borne in mind that the garden is still in its infancy, and that numerous and valuable species of plants introduced during the past six years are not yet sufficiently advanced to be turned to practical account so far as propagation is concerned. The garden may, however, be said to be in a highly satisfactory condition.

Liberian Coffee.—In consequence of the accounts received by the Superintendent of Botanical Gardens as to the successful growth of plants of Liberian coffee at the lower elevations, nearly all the plants of this species of coffee in the propagation house at

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the Cinchona Plantation were removed to Castleton, where they are now in a very thriving state.

In view of the fact that below an elevation of 2,000 feet Jamaica coffee decreases in quantity as its cultivation approaches the level of the sea, the acquisition of a species of coffee specially adapted to the climate of the lowlands is a matter of great importance to the peasantry, who are now the largest producers of coffee in the Island.

The Liberian coffee fetches very high prices in the market, and is said to be very prolific.

Cape Coast Coffee.—This other new variety of coffee, introduced into the Island last year, is progressing favourably.

Cocoa.—The several varieties of cocoa plants, the seeds of which were brought into the Island from Trinidad in 1873, and planted at Castleton, are now beginning to fruit. The climate of Jamacia is represented as being peculiarly fitted for the cultivation of cocoa, and it is worthy of remark that the only medal awarded at the Philadelphia Exhibition to a British plantation colony for cocoa was the one awarded to Jamaica.

Hope Experimental Grounds.

The experimental cultivation of the canes imported from the Mauritius, originally planted at Castleton and subsequently removed to the Hope Plantation, is still continued, and great care is taken with the view of determining the relative value of the several varieties.

Salangore Cane.—One planter in the parish of Portland has now 160 acres of this cane in cultivation, all produced from a single cutting obtained from Castleton about four years ago. Another planter in the parish of Saint Catherine expected to realise a larger return from 10 acres of this cane (planted without selection of spot) than from any other 10 acres of his estate. This estate, it may be added, is now deriving great benefit from the establishment of irrigation in Saint Catherine's, inasmuch as canes are now growing on patches throughout the fields which were barren before, and the fields which have been brought under irrigation are in a most promising condition.

Teak Trees.—The teak trees planted at Hope have made remarkable progress, the majority of them having attained, in little more than a year, a height of from 10 to 12 feet.

Divi-divi.—About seven acres of Divi-divi have been planted out, containing 450 plants.

Palisadoes Plantation.

Cocoanuts.—The number of cocoanuts now planted on the Palisadoes is upwards of 18,000, and it is proposed to put in about 7,000 plants more. Hundreds of the trees first planted are now beginning to bear, and nearly 20,000 nuts are now maturing.

Parade Garden.

Some of the trees in the Parade Garden have attained a height of from 30 to 40 feet; and although, on the other hand, various

species of trees and shrubs have not made much progress, owing chiefly to the peculiarly dry climate of Kingston and to the scorching winds to which the town is subject, it may be said that the growth of trees and shrubs in the garden during the year has been on the whole favourable.

Cinchona Plantations.

Eight years have elapsed since the first planting out of Cinchonas at the Government Plantation. The tallest tree of C. Officinalis is 33 feet 8 inches high, the circumference of trunk near the ground being 25 inches. Five feet from the ground it measures 17 inches, and at 12 feet 14 inches. The thickness of the bark of this tree is a quarter of an inch. The tallest tree of C. Succirubra is 31½ feet high, and the circumference, 18 inches above ground, is 26 inches; at five feet from the base it is 20 inches, and at 12 feet, 18 inches. The thickness of bark is a little over a quarter of an inch. The tallest trees of C. Calisaya are about 25 feet high, with trunk and bark of similar thickness to tallest tree of C. Succirubra. The average height of the first years planting of C. Succirubra ranges from 20 to 30 feet, of C. Calisaya from 16 to 25 feet, and of C. Officinalis from 10 to 12 feet.

About 7,000 plants have been propagated by cuttings during the year, and several thousands by seeds. There is still sufficient land cleared of forest in which to set some 20,000 plants in addition to those which have been already propagated, and it is expected that this number will be prepared before the end of 1877.

No crops of bark for export have yet been obtained, as it has been found to be desirable that the trees should not be cut down for the bark until they are from 10 to 12 years old.

Eucalyptus Globulus.—The plants from the seed of the Eucalyptus globulus planted at the Cinchona Plantation rather more than six years ago have attained a height of about 60 feet, the trunk measuring a foot in diameter near the ground, and six inches at a height of 20 feet. The lowest altitude at which this tree should be planted would seem to be about 2,000 feet. The value of the plant on the hills consists in its importance as a timber tree, as it is not only one of the most durable and useful of woods, but it grows with greater rapidity and to a larger size than any other timber tree. Judging from the rate of growth of the plants introduced six years ago, trees two feet in diameter are producible in 10 years from seed. Its perfectly straight trunk and great length augment the yield of timber, and the fact of the branches not being widespreading permits of the plants being set unusually thick. Compared with any other useful timber in the Island, there is no doubt that the Eucalyptus globulus is capable of producing several times more wood in an equal space of time; thus, for instance, the cedar (Cedrela odorata), which is probably the fastest growing timber tree in the Island, would require at least double the time to produce an equal quantity of wood.

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Three thousand plants of the Eucalyptus globolus have been distributed during the past year.

Jalap.—A crop of 1,700 lbs. of jalap was obtained during the year from the two acres planted out two years ago, and a further yield of about 3,000 lbs. is expected in a few months. It is proposed to export this jalap to England for sale.

Education.

During the year 1876 there was an increase in the number of schools inspected as compared with the previous year, of 43, and in the number of children registered as attending the schools, of 5,631. In average attendance an increase of 2,684 children is shown.

1,500*l.* in 1876, as against 1,484*l.* in 1875, was granted for opening grants, and 14,750*l.* 18*s.*, as against 12,974*l.* 16*s.*, for grants in aid.

The total number of scholars on the books of 569 schools during this year was 46,270, and the average attendance 27,270.

The Inspector of Schools, in reviewing the past nine years since the Government regulations were first applied, points to the fact that not alone has a steady increase taken place in the number of schools, the pupils in attendance, and the Government grants in aid, but that a very encouraging advance of the schools has been made from the lower to the higher classes. For example:—

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
In 1868 the classes of schools were -	1	6	89
In 1875 „ „ -	31	144	287
In 1876 „ „ -	45	157	314

"It is in this latter fact," observes Mr. Savage, "that we have a clear indication of the improvement in the quality of the work done in the schools, and that they are thus every year gradually, though it may be slowly, advancing in character.

"Moreover, it is generally conceded by all who are really acquainted with the past and present condition of our common schools, that the Government system of annual inspection has helped materially to produce this gradual improvement."

The great increase in grants in aid year by year attests the progressive improvement in the character of the instruction imparted in the schools and in school management generally, for the principle upon which these grants in aid are apportioned is based upon the amount and character of the entire work of the teacher, including organisation and discipline, as well as the several branches of instruction. The attainments and progress of the pupils individually are carefully attested in their respective classes by a series of Government standards (in which intelligence is the most prominent feature), so as to ascertain as near as possible the amount and quality of the work done by the teachers as a whole within a certain time, and thus determine the class to

which their schools may belong, and the grants to which they may be entitled accordingly.

Irregular attendance continues still a great obstacle to the proper working of the schools. This is attributed, and it cannot be denied, to the indifference and negligence of parents, and the employment of children who ought to be attending schools. The Inspector of Schools, writing on the subject of a remedy to this state of things, confesses his inability to perceive how it is possible to carry out a general system of compulsory education in Jamaica, which has been recommended by some persons as a remedy to the existing state of things.

This subject, with other subjects of a cognate character, is at the time of writing under the consideration of a commission to inquire into the condition of the juvenile population of this Island.

The insufficient pay received by teachers has been a matter of complaint, but, as is pointed out by Mr. Savage, the remedy in most cases lies in the hands of the teachers themselves, for, as they by earnestness and close application to their work bring up their schools to a higher standard, so will their earnings from Government and from parents of children increase.

The lack of professional ability in many of the teachers is still a discouraging defect in the schools, not alone among the untrained, but also among the trained teachers. An apparent inability exists in these teachers to convey instruction to a large class or school, so as to impress the understanding of the taught. The quick and showy pupil, with glib answer learned by rote, is too often the product of a school under men of this calibre, to the neglect of a solid foundation of useful learning. It is to be expected that, as the teachers specially under training take up work year by year, an appreciable progressive improvement will ensue in this respect.

Immigration.

During the year 1876 two vessels arrived from Calcutta with immigrants, viz., the "Chetah" and the "Middlesex." Of 767 souls embarked, 24 died during the voyage, and 748 were landed alive, viz.:—

Males - - -	467
Females - - -	187
Non-adults - - -	59
Infants - - -	35
	748

The death rate on board the "Chetah" was unfortunately high, no less than 5·35 of the 355 souls embarked. A strict inquiry by the Agent-General of Immigration has exonerated the surgeon or officers of the ship from blame in the matter, the heavy mortality being traceable to the embarkation, for various reasons, of

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coolies whose state of health rendered them unfit to stand the voyage.

The immigrants by the "Middlesex" were allotted in the parishes of St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Catherine, and Portland; those by the "Chetah" in St. Thomas.

During the year the allotment of coolies in the parish of St. Thomas, which had been suspended since 1872, was resumed on a consideration of the improved hospital accommodation provided, and of the fact that the employers had become better acquainted with the management of the coolies. The Agent-General observes that he has every reason to believe that under present arrangements the location of coolies in this parish will prove a success.

The mortality tables show a marked decrease in the death rate amongst the indentured immigrants compared with the rate last year.

1874–75.	1875–76.
3·55	2·34

In one district (the Port Royal Mountains) the improved state of health which prevailed amongst those located there contrasts very favourably with a previous existing state of things.

During the early part of 1876 the "Chetah" was engaged to convey return immigrants to Calcutta. The shipment consisted of time-expired immigrants who had received the bounty but paid their own passages, and a number of sick and disabled coolies who had been relieved from further service under indenture, and were cared for in the depôt at the expense of the Fund. The "Chetah" sailed on the 31st of May 1876 with 251 souls, of whom 96 were healthy people and 155 invalids. It is satisfactory to know that, owing to the medical examination of each invalid before embarkation, to test the chances of his surviving the voyage, and to special arrangements made for their accommodation, the death rate was not heavy. Treasury bills for 1,376*l.* 16*s.* were carried away by 45 of the coolies who left in the "Chetah" homeward bound.

It is a noteworthy circumstance that during the year no murders were committed among the indentured coolies in the Colony.

The Agent-General in his annual report refers with pleasure to the increasing prosperity of the immigrants in Jamaica, their extended use of the Government Savings Bank, the purchase of lands by them, and their comfortable settlement.

Applications for the introduction of immigrants in 1877 could not be entertained in the year under review, as the funds applicable under the law to the introduction of immigrants have become exhausted, and fresh legislation is needed to provide the means for carrying on immigration.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in savings banks for the last ten years are shown below :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1867	2,278	54,807
1868	2,524	58,913
1869	3,004	74,394
1870	*469 †2,205 2,674	*16,200 †63,486 79,686
1871	*2,024 †982 3,026	*93,776 †11,702 105,478
1872	3,396	142,240
1873	3,962	158,933
1874	4,582	179,176
1875	5,061	228,028
1876	5,431	243,171

In the above amount of 243,171*l.* are included deposits on account of public funds to the extent of 52,917*l.*, and deposits of the Court of Chancery to the extent of 7,209*l.*

Trade.

The value of the imports for each of the last ten years is shown below :—

	£		£
1867 -	859,186	1871–72 -	1,559,602
1868 -	1,023,866	1872–73 -	1,733,121
1869 -	1,224,414	1873–74 -	1,762,817
1870 -	1,300,455	1874–75 -	1,759,942
1870–71 -	1,331,185	1875–76 -	1,700,254

The dutiable articles which show an increase are: beef, wet salted; candles, composite; fish, dried; herrings; salmon, wet salted; matches, soap, and unenumerated goods, while those that show an increase are ale, bread, butter, candles, wax and tallow, mackerel, flour, gunpowder, meal, rice, salt, spirits, and tobacco. The increase in the importation of breadstuffs, which was very considerable during the past year, did not continue during 1875–76. The falling off has been attributed by the Collector-General in a great measure to the resuscitation of the provision grounds of the peasantry, and the consequent decrease in the consumption of those articles.

The following table, showing the values of articles imported which were freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports :—

* Government Savings Bank. † Private savings bank.

—	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines - -	101	3,046	6,904	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,603	11,485	18,152	15,360
Mills - - - -	1,072	1,882	3,822	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804	10,219	5,803	5,128
Other machinery - -	6,879	8,023	6,644	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149	5,026	11,331	2,434
Pans for boiling sugar -	603	984	2,409	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603	2,839	3,649	1,318
Pipes for fluids - -	374	1,331	1,202	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687	1,801	1,830	1,955
Stills - - - -	559	1,174	2,977	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076	3,986	6,848	3,153
Shooks of all sorts - -	18,023	19,479	17,362	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051	17,070	20,209	15,845
Staves - - -	5,587	6,418	3,847	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205	15,207	21,650	11,816
Wood hoops - - -	1,225	2,773	2,264	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856	1,822	2,192	1,609
Iron, galvanized - -	1,238	1,985	1,902	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971	5,339	5,746	4,533
Iron, other manufactures -	3,184	1,174	1,215	1,933	84	56	—	462	—	5
Miscellaneous - -	858	2,719	2,004	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243	3,559	3,050	3,872
	39,703	50,988	52,552	53,012	63,073	89,031	118,248	78,815	100,550	67,028

The principal decreases, as compared with 1874–75, appear under the items of other machinery, shooks of all sorts, and staves, which may be accounted for somewhat by the fact that the value of other machinery imported in 1874–75 is unduly swelled by a sum of nearly 8,000*l.* for machinery for the Kingston Gas works. The importation of shooks and staves in 1874–75 was considerably above the average of previous years, and thus allowed of smaller importations being made in 1875–76.

The value of the exports for each of the last ten years is shown below:—

—	Values.		
	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1867	1,016,554	28,540	1,045,094
1868	1,098,332	40,472	1,138,804
1869	1,052,562	110,207	1,162,769
1870	1,158,835	124,171	1,283,026
1870–71	1,196,532	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011
1873–74	1,369,507	72,573	1,442,080
1874–75	1,359,868	50,616	1,410,484
1875–76	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015

It is gratifying to notice that there is a considerable increase in the value of the exports of the past year over those of preceding years. The following articles of Island produce show an increase:—Annatto, arrowroot, beeswax, cigars, cocoa, coffee, fruits, ginger, honey, lancewood spars, logwood, lime juice, rum, sheep's wool, sticks, sugar, tobacco, and yams, while the following exhibit a decrease:—Cocoanuts, hides, pimento, and woods.

The exports of the principal staples for the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Exports.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.
Sugar, hogsheads - -	31,206	36,259	29,268	30,747	37,010	35,353	28,428	28,398	27,847	29,074
Rum, puncheons - -	18,834	20,274	15,270	16,897	19,376	20,113	16,584	19,350	21,359	22,048
Coffee, lbs. - - -	6,264,861	7,758,985	5,025,812	9,047,284	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144	10311427	7,136,307	8,649,049
Pimento, lbs. - -	7,595,800	4,373,259	6,575,249	5,243,109	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551	5,762,256	6,440,040	4,474,690
Dyewoods, fustic, and logwood, tons - - -	48,481	49,129	118,678	84,744	59,951	80,699	52,952	65,241	84,523	77,229
Ginger, lbs. - - -	1,728,075	2,036,921	1,261,873	680,492	632,031	599,766	815,659	1,181,789	1,490,845	1,613,764
Arrowroot, lbs. - -	44,566	27,346	11,731	6,343	5,820	13,193	2,470	1,636	21,983	21,152

The statement of the value of the fruit exported is continued for this year :—

	£
1871–72 - - - -	6,190
1872–73 - - - -	4,750
1873–74 - - - -	10,397
1874–75 - - - -	9,337
1875–76 - - - -	20,526

The above figures are very satisfactory as indicating the growing importance of this new trade.

Police.

The police establishment on the 30th September 1876 numbered 696 of all ranks. Of these, 34 were employed on detached duties and 35 were under training, &c. at the depôt, leaving an effective strength of 627. To these must be added 161 rural headmen and 243 rural policemen, making a total effective police force of 1,031.

The services performed during the year were in excess of those of any previous year, and are set forth by the Inspector-General in his annual report as follows:—The number of persons arrested on view, on information, and by warrant was 8,221; the number of warrants executed, 2,564; the number of summonses served, 9,523; the number of subpœnas served, 13,019; the number of civil processes executed, 89; the number of revenue notices served, 213; and the number of seizures under the revenue laws, 1,128. Besides these duties the constabulary attended the sittings of the several courts, escorted prisoners to and from the several prisons and lock-ups, conveyed expresses on police and other Government matters, attended markets and public entertainments, and patrolled the streets and other highways for the preservation of order, the protection of property, and the arrest of offenders.

The following is an epitome of the principal judicial duties performed by the police during the three years ended 30th September last :—

——	1874.	1875.	1876.
Number of persons apprehended -	6,576	7,152	8,321
„ warrants executed - -	2,065	2,207	2,564
„ summonses served - -	7,907	8,452	9,523
„ subpœnas served - -	11,659	11,483	13,019

The number of arrests in 1875–76 may thus be classified:—

Offences against the person - - -	1,146
Offences against property - - -	4,167
Miscellaneous offences - - - -	2,764
Breaches of revenue laws - - -	64
Military and naval offences - - -	80
Total - - -	8,221

The persons summoned for similar offences were:—

Against the person - - - -	4,153
Against property - - - -	1,511
Miscellaneous offences - - - -	3,655
Breaches of revenue laws - - -	134
Military and naval offences - - -	12
Total - - -	9,465

These figures, taken with the remanents of the previous year (266), give 17,952 as the aggregate number of persons brought before the courts in 1875–76, being 2,197 in excess of 1874–75.

In 1874–75 the persons proceeded against for offences against the person numbered 4,808, and in 1875–76, 5,382, or 574 more than in the previous year. The principal increases were—

——	1875.	1876.
Murder - - - - - -	12	14
Manslaughter - - - - - -	19	20
Soliciting to commit murder - - - -	—	7
Poisoning and attempt at same - - -	2	10
Shooting with intent - - - - -	3	5
Cutting and wounding - - - -	132	177
Assault with intent - - - - -	15	21
Aggravated assault - - - - -	63	112
Common assault - - - - -	3,876	4,338
Aiding and abetting - - - - -	10	34
Against morals - - - - -	39	66

The offences of cutting and wounding, assault with intent, and aggravated assault have for some years occupied a prominent position in the statistics of crime. In 1872, 215 persons were charged with these offences; in 1873, 236; in 1874, 316; in 1875, 210; and in 1876, 310. The prevalence of these crimes is attributed to the influx of foreigners, who have been accustomed in their native countries to use lethal weapons for the determination of disputes, and who have introduced the pernicious practice here. Of the persons tried during the last year (including 6 remanents in the superior courts), 152 were convicted, 141 acquitted, and 23 remanded for trial in the ensuing year. Many of the cases fell through in consequence of the prosecutors (who for the most part were persons connected with the accused) refusing to press their charges.

The cases of common assault during the year were considerably larger than in previous years, but the number of assaults on the constabulary somewhat diminished. In 1874–75, 175 persons were charged with assaults on the constabulary, and in 1875–76, 157. The cases of resisting the constabulary were also less in 1875–76 than in 1874–75, being 131 in the latter and 107 in the former year.

Of the total number of persons arrested and summoned (including 110 remanents in the superior courts) for offences against the person, 112 were discharged on preliminary inquiry, 2,836 acquitted, 2,381 convicted, and 163 had their cases remanded to the following year. Of the convictions 1,496 were by the magistrates, and 885 in the superior courts; and of the acquittals 1,612 were by the magistrates, and 1,224 in the superior courts.

The second class of offences, namely, offences against property, may thus be distinguished:—

Felonies - - -	3,227
Misdemeanors - -	2,570
Total - -	5,797

including 119 remanents from the previous year.

As regards the general offences against property it may be stated that of the 5,797 persons arrested and summoned during the year, 340 were discharged on preliminary inquiry, 1,699 convicted, and 1,863 acquitted by the magistrates, 1,758 sent to the superior courts for trial, and 137 remained uninvestigated on 30th September. Of the cases sent to the superior courts, and 133 remanents from the previous year (total 1,891), 1,044 resulted in convictions and 757 in acquittals, leaving 90 for trial in the following year.

The miscellaneous offences are principally breaches of the Towns and Communities Act, and other conservancy laws. These numbered 5,433 in 1874–75 and 6,476 in 1875–76, being an increase of 1,043 in the latter year. The increases were principally in regard to the following offences:—

—	1875.	1876.
Indecent language - - - - -	368	413
Abusive language - - - - -	1,785	1,880
Vagrancy - - - - - -	108	243
Furious riding and careless driving - - -	219	255
Obstructing thoroughfares - - - -	118	154
Drunkenness - - - - - -	46	83
Disorderly conduct - - - - -	1,987	2,597

The total miscellaneous offences throughout the Island in the last year were thus disposed of: discharged at preliminary inquiry 304, convicted by magistrates 2,997, acquitted by magistrates 1,973, sent to the superior courts for trial 1,127, remanded for

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the next year 75. The cases sent to the circuit and district courts were increased by 42 remanents, making 1,169, and resulted in 475 convictions, 157 acquittals, and 37 remanents for the current year.

The remaining items in the returns of crime are for breaches of the revenue laws and for military and naval offences. 203 charges under the revenue laws were dealt with summarily and otherwise during the year, resulting in 121 convictions, against 89 in the previous year. The naval and military offences numbered 94 and were disposed of thus: convicted 30, acquitted 64.

The report of the Detective Inspector shows a great improvement in the work of the detectives during the past year as compared with that of the previous year.

From the report of the Registrar of Habitual Criminals it is gathered that the number of habitual criminals over whom surveillance was kept during the past year was greater than was the case in the year 1874–75 and previous years.

The patrol system of the London Metropolitan Police has been adopted in the city of Kingston, with highly beneficial results.

Prisons.

The following figures show the number of prisoners confined in the various prisons and gaols in the Island on the 30th of September of each of the last five years:—

1872 - -	983	1875 - -	1,130
1873 - -	1,012	1876 - -	1,202
1874 -	1,003		

The cost per diem of dieting the prisoners for the last four years in the gaols, district and short-term prisons, has been as follows:—

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Middlesex and Surry County Gaol	2·702	3·050	3·351	3·193
St. Catherine's District Prison -	3·039	3·198	3·257	3·437
Falmouth District Prison - -	3·947	3·762	4·060	4·061
Mandeville „ „ - -	3·509	4·369	3·905	4·034
Hanover „ „ - -	3·314	3·468	3·834	3·284
St. Mary's „ „ - -	3·295	3·307	3·880	3·864
Morant Bay Short-Term Prison -	4·355	4·739	3·829	4·120
Black River „ „ -	4·089	3·783	3·068	4·861
Montego Bay „ „ -	3·754	3·808	3·855	2·630
St. Ann's Bay „ „ -	3·003	3·321	5·238	4·225
Port Antonio „ „ -	3·352	3·638	3·673	4·060

	£	s.	d.
The gross expenditure of the general penitentiaries for the year ended 30th September 1876 has been - - - - -	14,459	7	7
The gross expenditure of the gaols, district, and short-term prisons, for the same time has been	8,134	15	10
Total - - -	22,594	3	5
The gross earnings from the general penitentiaries, district, and short-term prisons, have been - - - - - -	9,672	11	5
Net cost of prisons - -	12,921	12	0

The net cost of each prisoner in all the prisons of the Island was 10*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* for the year.

General Penitentiary.

A malignant epidemic of pneumonia visited the male prison during the months of August and September. In the opinion of the surgeon the epidemic was produced by the combined effect of a peculiar condition of the weather in conjunction with an overcrowded state of the prison. The efforts of the Government have been directed to the prevention of the future overcrowding of the prison, and to this end, during the year, 24 substantially built cells have been added to "A" range, the hulk of a barque of 600 tons has been purchased and fitted up for the reception of convicts, whereby sleeping accommodation is afforded for 70 prisoners of the General Penitentiary, and a workshed within the prison walls is being fitted up with hammocks to provide sleeping accommodation for 40 prisoners.

Arrangements continue to be made by ministers of several denominations in Kingston for the regular holding of Sunday services at the penitentiary and for the provision of other religious ministrations during the week. Great additions have been made to the library, which continues to be appreciated by such of the prisoners as are able to read.

General Remarks.

During the year the public peace of the Island has been unbroken, and the general health of the Colony has continued good.

The following return from the Jamaica Railway Company for 1876, as compared with that for the former year, indicates a fair increase of traffic :—

	1874–75.	1875–76.
Passengers - - - - -	117,169	141,451
Horses - - - - - -	421	493
Carriages - - - - -	165	149
Cattle - - - - - -	531	658
Sheep - - - - - -	344	379
Goats - - - - - -	92	91
Pigs - - - - - -	256	265
Bundles, grass, 28 lbs. - - -	397,081	442,099
Bundles, wood, 30 lbs. - - - -	115,100	106,460
Tons, merchandise - - - -	20,031	19,279

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The number of messages received and sent through the West India and Panama Telegraph Company's station in this Island during the year appears below slightly in excess of that of the previous year:—

	1875.	1876.
Messages received - - - -	2,629	2,860
Messages sent - - - -	2,405	2,597

The agricultural statistics of the Colony show a steady annual enlargement for the last few years in the area of land under cultivation, chiefly in coffee, corn, tobacco, and ground provisions, and of grass lands; and looking to the large excess of demand for food supplies (such as can be readily grown here) over the native production of such articles, as evidenced by the heavy annual importations of butter, corn, corn-meal, pork, rice, &c., and looking also to the better protection to be extended to growing crops under the Prædial Larceny Law, now just passed by the Legislature, and to the steps being taken towards the enactment of a vagrancy law, there is reason to hope for a more rapid increase year by year of the acreage brought under cultivation, and a consequent increase in the value of the annual produce of the Colony.

A collection of Jamaica products was exhibited with very satisfactory results at the International Exhibition held at Philadelphia during the year, 31 awards having been obtained by this Island, of which nine were for coffee, six for rum, two for tobacco, two for vegetable fibres, &c., &c. The collection is reported by the agent sent by this Government in charge of the exhibits to have been, in point of variety and value of raw vegetable products, the best exhibited by any British Colony, and a special award was adjudged to this Government for the collective display of those products.

The great want of easy means of locomotion and transport has, during the year, been to some extent reduced by the employment of a steamer of the Royal Mail Packet Company in the coasting trade of the Island, and by the laying down of lines of a tramway now successfully working in Kingston and its suburbs.

The rainfall during 1876 has varied from 125·63 inches at the Cinchona Plantation, the highest cultivated land in the Island, to 38·54 inches at the Plumb Point Lighthouse.

(Signed) J. R. MANN,
Administrator.

King's House, 1877.

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No. 2.

Lieut.-Governor RUSHWORTH, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, King's House, June 6, 1877.

MR. SAVAGE, the Inspector of Schools, having at my request prepared a short historical sketch of education in Jamaica, I beg leave respectfully to forward a copy of this interesting report to your Lordship.

2. There can be no doubt but that education has made steady and successful progress in Jamaica under the Government Regulations promulgated in 1869; and I have much pleasure in bringing under your Lordship's notice the valuable services rendered by Mr. Savage in his capacity of Inspector of Schools.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. RUSHWORTH.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH of EDUCATION in JAMAICA.—May 1877.

1. Taking a general survey of the different educational states of the Colony from the days of slavery down to the present time, the subject may be divided into four periods, viz.:—

1st. Education in the days of slavery.

2nd. During the first few years immediately after the abolition of slavery in 1838.

3rd. From about the year 1844 or 1845 to 1868.

4th. Since the adoption and application of the new Government Regulations in 1868 to the present time.

First Period.—Education in the days of slavery.

2. During the days of slavery very little or no attention was bestowed upon the education of the lower classes, while the slaves were, as a rule, denied the privilege of education altogether.

It was a fixed tenet of the planters and employers of the negro race generally, that the education of the slaves or working classes would unfit them for labour, particularly that kind of labour for which they were required by the planters.

3. The consequence was that the poor slaves, and even the great bulk of the working classes who happened to be free, were allowed to remain in the most deplorable state of ignorance during these dark days of slavery.

4. A few exceptions to this systematic encouragement of ignorance among the lower classes may have been found when it so happened that the proprietors or managers of estates, who, from

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philanthropic motives, were kindly affected towards their labourers, allowed them to receive the simplest rudiments.

5. Whatever little education the common people received in those days, was chiefly obtained in the Sunday schools, where the missionaries endeavoured to give them some insight into the knowledge of the Bible, as well as ability to read for themselves some of the easier portions.

6. As a rule all the common day schools, or efforts having in view the enlightenment of the lower orders, were looked upon with suspicion, as inimical to the interests of the proprietary body and the higher classes generally; and many were the obstacles thrown in the way of those who attempted to enlighten the masses.

7. The endowed schools, of which there were several in different parts of the Island, were exclusively designed for the education of the whites, generally the children of planters, overseers, and shopkeepers "in straitened circumstances."

8. Inspector Plummer, who appears to be well informed with regard to the education of that period, states that "Education "in this Colony, not quite 50 years ago, was confined exclusively "to the upper classes of society.

"The endowed grammar schools, both in the north and south "of the Island, imparted a fair classical education. A few of "these schools excelled and stood abreast with some of the best "schools of the mother country, but these charities, after a time, "became corrupt, the intentions of the testators were abused, and "the schools were used by the trustees and masters more for the "education of the children of the rich and affluent, than for "the poor, for whom the bequests were made."

9. Knowing the sad state of ignorance and depravity in which the people of the West Indies had been brought up during slavery, one of the first things to which the friends of emancipation turned their attention after the abolition of slavery was the education of the emancipated negroes.

10. As one means towards the accomplishment of this object, the funds of Lady Mico's Charity were exclusively devoted to it by legislative enactment; and the Imperial Government, being duly impressed with the importance of providing a suitable education for the freed people, supplemented the funds of the Mico Charity with a very large annual grant for several years after freedom was proclaimed.

11. *Second Period.*—During the first few years immediately after the abolition of slavery in 1838.

12. When the emancipated people began to realise the fact that freedom had conferred upon them the privilege of having their children educated, the demand for schools became general throughout the Island.

13. The delight and enthusiasm of the lower classes at the prospect of seeing their children receiving instruction like white children was unbounded, and the eagerness with which they desired to place them under instruction at once was as hearty as it was universal.

14. With the liberal aid afforded by the Imperial Government, the trustees of the Mico Charity sent out a staff of well-educated and trained teachers from England, who opened a number of elementary schools in different parts of the Island, and a normal training school for teachers in the city of Kingston.

15. The various religious denominations also, to meet the great and pressing demand, started new schools in all directions, into which the children flocked by hundreds; and there seemed to be a real desire on the part of the parents to have their children properly educated.

16. A casual observer of the state of affairs at that time might have been led to conclude that the natives of this Island were about to take a mighty stride in the way of education, and attain to its highest development in an incredibly short time, judging from the apparent enthusiasm manifested at the time.

17. But unfortunately the demand for schools was far in excess of the supply of properly trained or qualified teachers.

18. The consequence was that the majority of the schools established at that time were extremely inefficient, the system of instruction prevalent in nearly all of them being the antiquated rote, or sound without sense, system, which produced nothing but the barest mechanical results.

19. Indeed a considerable number were mere dame schools of the lowest stamp that did not deserve to be called schools.

20. It is much to be regretted that at that time, when the parents appeared really anxious for the education of their children, the country was not in a position to provide suitable teachers and efficient schools for them.

21. If good schools had been established at that period, instead of the miserable shams that prevailed so generally, there can be no doubt but that the generation that has grown up since then, who have now become the heads of families, would have been a far better and more enlightened people.

22. In estimating the intellectual, moral, and social condition of the people of the present time, it is but fair to bear in mind that particular stage of their history when the means of improvement at their command were so slender and imperfect.

23. The educational enthusiasm just referred to lasted only for a few years after the abolition of slavery, and began to decline when it became apparent that the schools were so inefficient and produced such poor practical results.

24. This decline leads us to the *Third Period,* from about the year 1844 or 1845 to 1868.

25. As the children who had been the first to enjoy the privileges of education under the new order of things in the early days of freedom began gradually to leave the schools, about the years 1844, 1845, and onwards, to take their places as labourers in the fields and workshops, it was plainly seen, notwithstanding all that had been said in favour of education, that it had done very little in preparing them for the practical duties of life.

26. Many of the parents, who were sadly disappointed, saw

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that the little smattering of knowledge their children obtained at the schools only tended to make them conceited, self-willed, and disobedient, while it did not appear to make them better labourers in the fields of industry they had of necessity to occupy than their uneducated and illiterate parents.

27. Thus it came to pass, as the schools, through their inefficient management, began to lose the confidence of the parents, that a general decline in the attendance of pupils set in, which continued to grow worse and worse every year as time went on.

28. Many of the schools hastily opened to meet the first enthusiasm of the people had now to be closed, others languished and grew more inefficient for want of sympathy and proper attention, while a settled indifference with regard to the whole subject of education had taken possession of the public mind.

29. Education it was thought had been fairly tried, and was, in view of the results, pronounced a failure.

30. Under the circumstances, this conclusion was no doubt a correct one, when the impractical character of the work of the schools of that period was borne in mind, and how little the children were prepared by it for the actual business of daily life.

31. This very low and unsatisfactory state of things continued to exist for more than 20 years, during which time the rising generation was in the main allowed to grow up in a sad state of ignorance and depravity.

32. Meanwhile the Government continued for a number of years to grant the sum of 3,000*l.* per annum for educational purposes, but which, owing to the smallness of the grant and the indiscriminate manner in which it was distributed, without regard to results, produced very little or no good.

33. Inspectors of schools were also occasionally sent round, at long intervals between, to see the schools and report on their condition to the Government, but as no action was ever taken on these reports (the annual grants being usually paid without reference to them), no good whatever came of these inspections.

34. With reference to this period, Inspector Plummer, in a paper read before the Social Science Congress, held in Manchester, England, in 1866, remarks:—

35. "Although at this time schools were becoming general throughout the Island, yet the opposing spirit of the planters was not altogether extinct. For while they cannot now openly oppose the spread of education among the people, yet they use means the most subtle to make it inoperative.

36. "The endowed schools are generally all managed by them as trustees. From these schools the children of the peasantry are entirely excluded.

37. "The Legislature is composed of them. They grant annually two or three thousand pounds (very grudgingly) for the education of the scores of thousands of children, and every report on the subject by the Inspector of Schools was ordered to 'lie on the table.'

38. "In consequence of this, small annual grants, sums of from 5*l.* to 10*l.*, are doled out to each teacher.

39. "This inadequate pay can only command the services of the most inefficient and ignorant set of men in the educational field, and instruction exists only in name. If you visit one of the country schools you would find the poor teacher an ignorant uneducated man, not decently clad, with his ragged dirty pupils around him, with probably one book among them, and in a great many instances without any book at all, and unprovided with either desks or benches.

40. "This is one of the class of schools supported by the Government, the teacher of which gets for his salary a 10*l.* note. The Government Inspector of Schools in his two last reports (1863 and 1864) strongly condemns the present system of keeping up the schools in the rural districts, for they were shams and delusions.

41. "There are now in Jamaica many districts in which there are no schools nor religious teaching, and where the people are only one remove from a state of barbarism."

42. Much dissatisfaction was expressed at that time, not only by the community at large, but by some leading members of the Government, with regard to the low condition of popular education and the need of improvement.

43. It was generally felt that the small grant voted annually by the House of Assembly was accomplishing no good, and that its expenditure was little better than a waste of public money, mainly because its distribution among the school managers was not based upon any system of payment by results.

44. Indeed at that time the Government had no regular system of education, and the grants-in-aid were given merely on the individual representations of the school managers as to the existence and locality of the schools and the number of children in attendance.

45. In the absence of a regular system of inspection, it frequently happened that the least deserving schools obtained the largest grants, owing, it might be, to the importunity of the managers and their highly coloured representations.

46. One unscrupulous school manager or pretended manager in St. Thomas-in-the-East ventured to apply to the Government for aid to schools that had no existence whatever.

47. Registers with the fictitious names of pupils were prepared, and localities in the interior named as the spots where these schools were said to exist, notably York, and other places near Stony Gut, and Torrington, where the outbreak of 1865 took place. Fortunately, in this case Mr. W. Whitehorne, who chanced to be employed just at that time as inspector to visit the schools in the east, detected the fraud and reported it to the Government. But it is to be feared that many other and similar cases of fraud, though perhaps not quite so heinous, escaped detection when there was no inspector to visit the schools, as was often the case.

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48. Early in the year 1863 the Honourable Hugh Anthony Whitelock, then a member of the Executive Committee, knowing that I had long been engaged in educational work, asked me to prepare a simple and workable system of school inspection whereby the annual grants-in-aid to the schools might be determined on a more satisfactory basis of "payment by results," and the Government be thus enabled to extend and improve the work of elementary education throughout the Colony.

49. In compliance with this request, I submitted the principles of a simple scheme to Mr. Whitelock, which I thought would answer the purpose the Government had in view, with which he expressed himself highly pleased.

50. After this had been laid before the Government and duly considered, an Act was prepared by the Legislature to give effect to the principles of the scheme, and at the same time to carry out a system of competitive examination of teachers that had been just then brought forward in the House of Assembly.

51. In May 1863 I was appointed Inspector of Schools by Governor Eyre, to assist in carrying out these two systems, under the direction of a Board of Education, consisting of the bishop and the leading ministers of the various religious bodies in Kingston.

52. My first tour of inspection was directed to the east, and after going through the county of Surrey I reported to the Government on the condition of the schools in that section of the Island.

53. The next year, 1864, Middlesex and Cornwall were visited, and the schools reported upon in like manner.

54. From these two reports, which were published in the Appendixes to the Votes of the House of Assembly for 1863 and 1864, it will be seen that the condition of most of the schools at that time was extremely defective, both as regards the teachers conducting them and the methods of instruction employed.

55. One or two extracts from the report of 1864 will suffice to show the state of the common schools at that period.

56. Of the 289 schools then receiving aid from the Government, and inspected, only some 25 belonged to the first and second classes which might claim to be regarded as good or fair schools.

57. Of the other 264 schools, *i.e.*, 91 per cent. of the whole, 110 belonged to the third class, and 154 to the fourth or lowest class.

58. In none of those inferior schools, although they constituted so large a proportion of the whole then under inspection, would it be found that really good, sound, practical instruction was being imparted to the pupils, while the large fourth class, numbering 154, *i.e.*, about 53 per cent. of the whole inspected, were absolute failures in every respect, for in the report of 1864 they are thus described:—

59. "In the fourth and most numerous class, not the slightest attempt is made to explain or elucidate the meaning of any of the lessons, no monitors, no collective teaching, no regular system of any kind, nor any moral training whatever; in short, the sum of all that appears to be done is nothing more than a little mechanical reading, writing, and sum working, with the committing to memory of catechisms and a few hymns, while there is the total absence of all effort to expand the intellect or elevate the moral powers of the pupils."

60. In the periodical reports that were submitted to the Government at that time, special attention was directed to this very defective state of the schools, and the Government was repeatedly urged to adopt some better system of awarding the grants-in-aid on the results of inspection, so as to remedy these defects and induce a higher degree of efficiency in the management of the schools.

61. But these reports, if even read in the House of Assembly, were invariably shelved, being ordered to lie on the table, and afterwards printed in the Appendix to the Votes of the House, without any further notice being taken of them.

62. Thus, no good results appeared likely to follow from the inspection which the Government had instituted at considerable expense, as the House of Assembly, who had the power of moving in such matters, was indisposed to take action, although the appeals for reform from outside were most urgent and continuous.

63. In this unsatisfactory way the education of the masses was allowed to continue till the outbreak of 1865 occurred in Saint Thomas-in-the-East, when for a time all thoughts of education were banished, owing to the severe shock produced by the outbreak, and when it appeared to many that the establishment of a military despotism and other severe measures were more desirable than the extension and improvement of education.

64. After a while, however, when the excitement began to pass away, and a new form of Government had been inaugurated, the fact of such a barbarous outrage having been perpetrated in a country that had boasted of some degree of enlightened civilisation and religious progress, clearly demonstrated that the masses, in one section of the Island at least, were far more ignorant and debased than was supposed.

65. It then became apparent that the adoption of measures for the extension and improvement of the education of the people should claim the first attention of the new Government.

66. Consequently, Sir John Peter Grant, soon after he took charge of the Government, turned his attention to the subject, and the principles of the scheme that had been previously submitted to the Government during the existence of the House of Assembly were now duly considered.

67. This action of the new Government ultimately resulted in the preparation of a new "Code of Regulations" with regard to the distribution of the grants-in-aid to and the inspection of

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the elementary schools, which were promulgated in July 1867, and applied to the schools for the first time in 1868. This brings us to the fourth period.

Fourth Period.—Education since the adoption and application of the new Government Regulations in 1868 to the present time.

68. When the standards of the new Government Regulations came to be applied to the schools for the first time in 1868, the very defective character of the work done in the schools became still more strikingly manifest, and all that had been said previously was fully confirmed.

69. Of the 286 schools inspected that year, no less than 102, or about 35 per cent., were struck off the list as complete failures, while 177 were assigned to the lowest class of "thirds" and "exceptionals," thus leaving, out of the 286 schools, only seven of the first and second classes that could claim to be regarded as fair and good schools.

70. This was a result that was scarcely anticipated, and many of the school managers, who had formed the most erroneous conception of the character of their schools, on finding their schools rated so low by the Government inspectors, became highly indignant, and protested loudly against the Government scheme.

71. For the first few years after the introduction of this improved educational scheme of the Government, some of the managers, on account of their unwillingness to abide by the decisions of the inspectors, were induced to offer considerable opposition to its practical application, refusing in some instances to submit to inspection or to receive the Government aid that was offered. But as the inspectors persevered in their impartial and searching examinations, explaining the practical bearings of the Government standards, as well as the improved methods of instruction which the Government wished to see adopted in the schools, the efforts of the Government became better understood and appreciated, and the opposition gradually died away, for it became evident that the "standards," when rightly applied, were perfectly fair, and calculated to raise the efficiency of the schools in every way.

72. Finding that the real aim of the Government system was to extend and improve the education of the common schools on a just and equitable principle of "payment by results," the school managers of every religious denomination in the Island (some of whom had for many years persistently declined all Government aid and inspection) ultimately accepted the measure, and placed their schools on the Government list.

73. Every year since then, making nine years now, since the new regulations have been in force, we have had to report a steady increase in the number of schools in operation, as well as marked improvement in their management.

74. The "comparative summary" in my last report shows the progress made in each year since 1868, and the following abstract from that summary clearly sets forth the general advance that has been made in elementary school education during the past nine years.

Years.	Number of Schools.	Pupils. On Books.	Pupils. Average Attendance.	Government Grants, including Opening Grants.	Classes of Schools. 1st.	2nd.	3rd.	Exceptional.	Failure.	Average Government Grant to each School aided.	Average Government Grant to each Pupil under Instruction.
				£ s. d.						£ s. d.	s. d.
1868	286	19,764	12,216	2,978 0 0	1	6	89	88	102	16 2 0	4 10
1876	569	46,270	27,270	16,250 18 0	45	157	314	18	3	26 3 1	10 9

75. The averages of the two last columns do not include the "opening grants."

The increase shown in each item of the above summary (with two exceptions) in 1876, as compared with 1868, displayed in the form of per-centages, will appear as follows:—

Increase in 1876, *compared with* 1868.

Number of schools - -	99 per cent. (nearly).	
Pupils on books - - -	134	,,
Average attendance - -	123	,,
Government grants - -	445	,,
Year 1869, school fees paid by parents - - -	120	,,
First class schools - -	4,400	,, or 45 to 1.
Second ,, - - -	2,516	,,
Third ,, - - -	252	,,
Exceptionals - - -	388	,, decrease.
Failures - - - -	191	,, ,,
Average Government grant to each school - - - -	62	,, increase.
Average Government grant to each pupil - - - -	122	,,

76. It will be seen that the great increase in the Government grants is fully met when we consider the large increase in the number of schools and pupils in connexion with the increased efficiency indicated by the large per-centages of schools that have passed into the first and second classes.

77. Looking in a general way at the educational operations of the last nine years, and the progress that has been made during that period, the following may be regarded as a brief summary of the leading results:—

78. (1.) The number of schools has been largely increased in all parts of the Island, the number being now more than double what it was in 1868; and thus educational advantages have been provided for hundreds of children that had been previously neglected. The "opening grants" given by the Government have also materially helped in the extension of school provision to the benighted and degraded back settlements, which has been, in many instances, productive of the happiest results.

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79. (2.) A very general and widespread interest has been awakened in the subject of popular education among all classes by the introduction of the new scheme of the Government.

80. And this interest, which is gradually manifesting itself among the lower as well as the higher classes, is not only kept alive by the annual visits of the inspectors, but is increased thereby every year.

81. Not that the common people generally take as much interest in education as they should, as yet; still, on the whole, public interest in school matters has certainly increased considerably within the last few years.

82. (3.) Greater provision has been made for the proper training of teachers for the elementary schools.

83. While the Mico Institution and the Moravian and Baptist Societies have kept up their respective normal schools, and have somewhat increased the number of their students, the Government has provided for the education of 10 additional students in the Mico, and has established a training college of its own in Spanish Town for the training of 21 students.

84. It will be found that the number of students now under training to become teachers of the common schools is fully twice as large, if not more, than it was in 1868, while the number of trained teachers actually in charge of the schools at the present time has increased to more than 167 per cent. when compared to the trained teachers at work in 1868.

85. Moreover, two schools have been established and kept in active operation by the Government for a number of years in Port Antonio and Buff Bay, which have done much good in their respective localities.

86. (4.) Although numerous defects may still be found in our elementary schools, great improvement has unquestionably been made in the methods of instruction employed of late, and the general management of the schools. This is somewhat indicated in the summary, which shows the great advance of schools from the lower to the higher classes.

87. The repeated application of the Government standards in the rigid examinations that have taken place every year, accompanied by numerous suggestions from the inspectors with regard to the practical details of school-keeping, could not fail to produce the most beneficial effects upon the schools, and we have had the satisfaction of witnessing decided improvements every year since the Government regulations came into force.

88. In a great many instances where the teachers have been willing to be instructed more fully in the details of their profession, the inspectors have practically reorganised their schools, and have given them such hints as have enabled them to introduce decided improvements into their schools. This has been about the most valuable part of the service performed by the inspectors, for their work has been much more than mere examination.

89. Being practical teachers themselves, and well acquainted with all the details of elementary school work, the inspectors

throughout all their examinations, have been ever ready to offer such suggestions for the improvement of the schools as have appeared necessary; and this, after nine years, has told appreciably upon the whole character of the work in the schools.

90. Many of the best schools that now appear in the first and second classes on the Government list owe very much of their efficiency to the timely hints of the inspectors, and many of the managers and teachers who have seen the advantage of such a system are now more desirous than ever to receive from the inspectors any suggestions that may help them to improve their schools.

91. (5.) The application of a fair and equitable system of "payment by results" in the distribution of the Government grants-in-aid to schools, and a thoroughly impartial system of inspection, have greatly stimulated and encouraged the ministers of the various religious bodies in their efforts to educate the people.

92. Thus it has come to pass that while the Government system of education has given a decided impetus to the cause of popular education, and has had the effect of materially improving the work of instruction in the schools, it has also enlisted the the sympathy and hearty co-operation of the most influential men in the community, viz., the ministers of all the religious societies in the Island.

93. This co-operation of the ministers of religion has been frequently alluded to in the annual reports as about one of the happiest features connected with the Government scheme, for to their valuable assistance as school managers must be attributed a large measure of the success that has attended the carrying out of the system.

94. In Barbados, where a different system prevails, the inspector, while commenting upon the little interest taken by the ministers in their schools, seriously recommended the Government to pay them regularly for the supervision of their own schools.

95. Certainly we have not needed this in Jamaica, as most of the managers evince very commendable zeal in school matters, partly because they are encouraged in their efforts to educate the children of their respective congregations by the action of the Government.

96. (6.) Hundreds of young men and women who have been passing through the schools during the last nine years are now taking their place in society and engaging in life with much more intelligence than the people of the preceding generation.

97. Admitting that their education is, to a certain extent, very superficial (and when full allowance is made for all the circumstances of their case it could not well be otherwise), still they are certainly much in advance of their parents, and therefore better fitted to help in the advancement of the material, social, and moral welfare of the country.

98. No one acquainted with the former condition of the people of this Island can deny but that a very fair amount of progress in

civilisation has been made within the period under consideration, perhaps, indeed, quite as much as could have been reasonably expected when it is borne in mind that 39 years have not yet elapsed since the abolition of slavery.

99. On the other hand it has been said that crime is on the increase, and some statistics published recently seem to show that this unfortunately appears to be the case.

100. In attempting to account for such an apparent anomaly as the increase of crime occurring simultaneously with educational improvement, it should be remembered that as a general rule, applicable to all parts of the world, even the most advanced, moral progress very seldom or ever keeps pace with intellectual advancement.

101. Jamaica is by no means singular in this respect.

102. Look, for example, at England and France and the United States, where the highest results in intellectual culture have been achieved, and yet crimes of the most heinous kind have continued to a fearful extent, in spite of all that has been done in the schools.

103. Indeed, it naturally follows that when the moral training does not keep pace with the intellectual, the recipients of such a one-sided education are apt to become more inclined to commit crime, as well as more daring and expert in the commission of it.

104. But should the Government and the friends of education therefore cease to enlighten and develop the intellectual faculties of the young, because they cannot exercise the same command over their moral powers?

105. If this conclusion were adopted, and the head had to wait on the heart, there would be very little education either in Europe or America.

106. Of course, the two things, intellectual and moral growth, ought to go together, and in well-conducted schools, as well as in well-regulated families, they do go together, with the best and happiest results.

107. But unfortunately these cases are but rare exceptions, even in the most enlightened countries, and it is scarcely to be expected that in a country which had been for nearly two centuries subject to the demoralising influences of slavery, moral improvement should be more rapid (or even as rapid) as in more highly favoured countries.

108. Besides, it should be remembered that the parents of the young people who have been recently passing through our elementary schools had been most imperfectly educated (many indeed having never received any education whatever), as already shown, for the schools in their day were for the most part mere shams. Having thus never been subject, either in their homes, or in the schools, to anything worthy of the name of moral discipline, it could not be expected that they would be in the least qualified to exercise a proper moral restraint over their offspring.

109. Moreover, it has been pointed out over and over again in the annual reports that one of the most serious defects of our schools all along, even up to the present time, has been the lack of good moral discipline.

110. Very few teachers have the capacity to train their pupils into habits of self-restraint, simply because, not having been properly trained themselves, they do not possess the requisite moral qualifications for such a work. Then again, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to command these moral qualities as other school work can be commanded.

111. The Government can demand, and fairly estimate, certain intellectual attainments in the schools, for the purpose of determining the pecuniary assistance to be awarded upon the results obtained, but the work required in the department of morals is by no means so easily distinguished or estimated.

112. No Government system that has ever been devised has been able fully to grapple with this delicate question of moral training.

113. With all these considerations in view, it cannot be a matter of wonder that moral improvements have not kept pace with the intellectual.

114. We can only hope that, as the people become gradually more enlightened, motives of self-interest, as well as the higher religious motives derived from a better knowledge of God's word, may in process of time produce a better moral tone of society.

115. (7.) The general prosperity of the Island has been promoted by the spread of education, limited as it may have been.

116. This point may be denied by certain parties, especially the plantocracy, who, viewing everything from their own standpoint, the welfare of their estates, may contend that the education of the masses having in no way contributed to the prosperity of their estates, but on the contrary has helped to deprive them of the labour they so much need, it has therefore not conduced to the prosperity of the country.

117. This may appear to be so when looked at from their narrow point of view, but there are other interests besides those of the large planters that claim an equal share of consideration, and when all these, the interest of the community as a whole, are fairly weighed, without special reference to any one class, it can be truthfully maintained that the general prosperity of the Island has been advancing for some years past.

118. One natural effect of education on the lower classes is increasingly manifesting itself everywhere.

119. The wants of the people are increasing in proportion as they are advancing in knowledge, just as in other countries, for the young people who are now going out from the schools to take their places in society, and become the heads of families, are not satisfied with the things that satisfied their uneducated parents as regards their houses, furniture, and clothes, &c. Superior knowledge and improved tastes have produced a higher

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degree of civilisation, and larger supplies of the luxuries as well as the ordinary necessaries of life have therefore been required.

120. As a natural consequence, trade in general, as well as all the industries of life, have been extended to meet the increased demands, and thus the general prosperity has been promoted.

121. As one proof of this, out of many that might be adduced, I would direct attention to the following comparison of the general revenue and import duties, taken from the Blue Books for the years 1866 and 1876, which shows the increase that has taken place in these items within the last ten years.

122.—

General Revenue.		Import Duties.	
	£		£
1876 - -	529,734	1876 - -	265,435
1866 - -	327,359	1866 - -	163,573
Increase -	202,375	Increase -	101,862

123. Without pretending to say that this increase is wholly due to education, as many other influences have been at work, I think it can be fairly said that a fair portion of it is due to the civilising influences of the improved education the people have been receiving for several years past.

124. In concluding this brief sketch, I would just mention a few other educational requirements that may now, in view of the widening necessities of the Colony, fairly claim the attention of the Government as a further extension of the system of education.

125. The most urgent of these are—

(1.) The establishment of industrial homes for vagrant and destitute children, and some system of apprenticeship.

126. (2.) The encouragement of superior schools for girls of the well-to-do middle class, and training colleges for female teachers.

127. (3.) The adoption of measures for the encouragement of middle and high class schools for boys, whereby their number and efficiency may be increased.

128. Without entering upon any discussion of these points at present (they shall have my attention at another time), I would simply offer the following preliminary suggestion as to the principle upon which it might be advisable for the Government to proceed in any measures that may be adopted for the practical realisation of these important educational requirements.

129. I think it would be well if the Government could, as far as possible, adhere to the principle of "grants-in-aid" which has thus far characterised the Government system, rather than direct establishment and support.

130. This may not be practicable in every instance, but if school managers or proprietors can be induced to take the initia-

tive in such matters, and look to the Government simply for aid, there can be no doubt but that such a combination of efforts, in which the chief responsibility rests on the managers, will be more likely to be attended with success than any other plans.

131. Thus far this principle has worked well, but cases may arise where it cannot be applied, and when it may be necessary for the Government to take direct action on its own responsibility.

(Signed) JOHN A. SAVAGE,
Inspector of Schools.

May 23, 1877.

TRINIDAD.

No. 3.

The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Trinidad, September 17, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the Blue Book of Trinidad for 1876.

2. Having been only a few months in the Colony, I am unable to make a full report, and I therefore confine myself to a few observations suggested by the returns.

Taxes and Duties.

3. Laws were passed which provide for several remissions of taxes and duties in 1877. Thus the duty on manure and the tax on trade licenses ceased to be levied from the 1st January last, and all tonnage duties were abolished from the 1st August.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The following table shows the revenue of the Colony for the last three years excluding fractions of a pound.

	£
1874 - - -	384,672
1875 - - -	341,619
1876 - - -	316,170

5. The figures for 1874 and 1875, however, include 100,181*l.* and 50,150*l.* respectively for amounts received on account of railway debentures in those years. Making these deductions the comparison would stand thus—

	£
1874 - - -	284,691
1875 - - -	291,469
1876 - - -	316,170

so that instead of a falling off, there was an increase in 1876 of 24,701*l.* as compared with 1875, and of 31,679*l.* as compared with 1874.

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6. This improvement was principally due as regards 1876 to (1) railway traffic receipts 9,960*l.*, a new item which now for the first time appears in the accounts; (2) receipts from excise larger than those of the previous year to the extent of 9,355*l.*; and (3) miscellaneous receipts 2,275*l.*, the principal source of revenue, Customs, having produced nearly the same amount as in 1875 (116,509*l.* in 1876, and 117,281*l.* in 1875).

7. The gross expenditure of the year 1876 was 318,362, while that for 1875 was 352,488, and for 1874 372,468*l.* But here again as in the case of revenue it is necessary to make a deduction for the purpose of a fair comparison. The sums paid in the three years on account of the construction of the railway were as follows:—

	£
1876 - - -	29,872
1875 - - -	60,144
1874 - - -	70,276

Deducting these the expenditure was as follows:—

	£
1874 - - -	301,692
1875 - - -	292,344
1876 - - -	288,492

the two latter years showing in each case a reduction instead of an increase of amount as compared with the year immediately preceding. This reduction, however, as regards 1876 appears on examination to be more apparent than real, as might indeed be expected with regard to a Colony progressing so rapidly as this is in population and wealth. In the expenditure of 1875 appears an item 10,050*l.* for "Investment in Railway Debentures," there being no similar item for 1876, and further the account for the latter year shows that 17,256*l.* of its diminished expenditure is in respect of "immigration," which properly belongs to a separate account. There was indeed a substantial reduction in respect of some items; but to set against these are increases under the heads of (1) establishments, (these, however, being chiefly due to the transfer of salaries to this head from "services exclusive of establishments"); (2) telegraph (the subsidy to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company having been paid for the first time"); (3) working expenses of the railway (a new item in consequence of the opening having taken place in 1876).

8. Comparing the gross revenue of 1876, 316,170*l.*, with the gross expenditure (exclusive of advances for railway construction) 288,492*l.*, there would appear to be a surplus of 27,678*l.*

But from this sum two considerable deductions have to be made,—

(1.) In respect of immigration.

There was on account of this service in 1876, a revenue (raised from taxes specially appropriated to this object) of 41,198*l.*, and an expenditure of 47,899*l.* But as three-tenths of the expense of immigration is paid from the general taxation, it follows that

the amount by which the former exceeds seven-tenths of the latter belongs to the Immigration Fund, which was still considerably in debt to general revenue at the end of the year, and must be deducted from the apparent surplus.

(2.) The amount of wharfage dues, 12,818*l.*

These for the most part belong to the Royal Road Fund, the expenditure of which does not appear in these accounts, and in 1876 considerably exceeded the revenue.

9. These deductions—

	£
Immigration - - -	7,677
And wharfage - - -	12,818
make a total of - - - -	20,495

leaving a net surplus of 7,183*l.*

10. When the railway accounts shall have been finally adjusted, I have reason to think that a considerable sum will be found to be due to the railway from the general account, in which case the above surplus will require further deduction, and the revenue and expenditure of the year will prove to have been nearly equal.

11. The revenue and expenditure in 1876 and 1875 of the wards were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1876 - -	41,327 - -	44,242
1875 - -	40,922 - -	39,197

Of the town of Port of Spain (the financial year ending 28th February):—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1876 - -	11,858 - -	12,355
1875 - -	9,703 - -	10,557

there being still, however, on February 28th, 1877, an amount to credit of the town of 2,042*l.*

Of San Fernando:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1876 - -	4,152 - -	4,238
1875 - -	4,391 - -	4,817

12. *Public Debt*

was reduced in 1876 by 6,830*l.*, the amount having been 191,500*l.* on 31st December 1875, and 184,670*l.* on 31st December 1876. Of this debt nearly 150,000*l.* is on account of the loan for the railway, which, according to present appearances, seems likely to be in no long time a remunerative investment (even in a strictly financial sense), and the remaining debt is all primarily secured upon local revenues, so that the Colony has, in fact, no debt which can be set against its SURPLUS FUNDS.

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13. These, that is to say, the amount by which the available assets exceed immediate liabilities, were 47,161*l.* 8*s.* 3½*d.* at the end of 1876, as against 58,224*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.* at the end of 1875, the difference being chiefly due to advances to the capital account of the railway, which also absorbed the surplus revenue of the year.

14. Considering, in connexion with the above figures, that there is, according to present appearances, every probability of a surplus this year in spite of the reduction in taxation mentioned above, and also that the railway is already earning considerably more than its working expenses, I trust I am not sanguine in looking upon the financial position of the Colony as eminently satisfactory.

Public Works.

15. The expenditure on public works during 1876 was 61,479*l.* of which 21,341*l.* was for roads and bridges. It may be hoped that in future the latter item will take up a larger proportion of the total expenditure, now that the great works which have figured so prominently in the estimates of the last few years are either finished (Police Barracks, Port of Spain, and Governor's new residence), or nearly finished (Court-house, San Fernando). Besides those above mentioned, the following are the more important works which occasioned expenditure; (1), new ward, Couva Convict Depôt; (2), new ward, Lunatic Asylum; (3), bonded warehouse; (4), new police station and out buildings, Moruga; (5), wharf improvement, San Fernando and Port of Spain; (6), eleven new bridges; and (7), the construction of the Mânzanilla, Guaracara Nega, Oropouche, and Couva main roads, while repairs and alterations were effected in 51 different buildings.

16. The actual cost of the works which have been undertaken since the re-construction of the Public Works Department by Governor Irving, shows on the whole a remarkable approximation to the estimates. In the very few cases of excess the amount is very trifling. Mr. Tanner, the present Director of Works, deserves credit for results which present so favourable a contrast with those of former years.

Railway.

17. The year 1876 will be memorable in the annals of Trinidad as that in which was witnessed the opening of its first railway. The line between Port of Spain and Arima, a distance of 16 miles, was opened to Arouca for goods traffic on the 11th February, and for passengers on 1st June.

18. The working expenses up to the end of the year amounted to 6,869*l.*, while the receipts for passengers and goods were 9,960*l.* This year the traffic has considerably increased in spite of a very "short" crop of sugar. The use of the line by the

people has been far beyond all expectation. The passengers during the dry season (March, April, and May) exceeded 30,000 per month, a number which, if reliance can be placed on the returns of the last census, considerably exceeds half of the population living within 10 miles of the line, and probably falls little short of the whole population living within two miles.

Legislation.

19. Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the most important were,—

No. 4. "For the establishment and regulation of Industrial Schools."

No. 9. "To authorise the mayor and burgesses of Port of Spain to raise certain monies to be expended in the improvement of the borough of Port of Spain."

No. 10. "For the appointment of a collector and surveyor of Customs."

No. 13. "To repeal the duties on tonnage"; and

No. 18. "To abolish the duties on trade licenses."

Population and Vital Statistics.

20. The number of the population, which was 109,638 according to the census of 1871, is now without doubt much larger.

21. Since the above year some 13,300 Indian Coolies have been imported, and there has been a large immigration from the neighbouring islands attracted by the railway and other large public works in course of construction.

22. I am moreover informed that certain facts which came to light during the smallpox epidemic of 1871–2 indicated a very faulty enumeration at least as regards Port of Spain. Considering these and other circumstances which have come under my notice, and making fair allowance for the mortality from the smallpox epidemic of 1872, I believe I am within the mark in estimating the present population at 130,000.

23. The births during 1876 were 4,606, or 35·4 per mille on the above estimation, a not unsatisfactory rate considering the fact that the men are to the women in a proportion of about six to five.

24. The deaths were 3,972, or 30·5 per mille, a rate which though showing a marked improvement on most previous years seems nevertheless to indicate unsatisfactory sanitary conditions, especially when it is considered in connexion with the low birth-rate, and the large proportion which infants always contribute to mortality.

Civil Establishment.

25. The following are the principal changes which occurred in the Civil Establishment:—

Governor Irving left the Island on December 9th, and Mr. Bushe, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government

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until the end of the year. Mr. Pyne, the Receiver-General, acting as Colonial Secretary; Mr. Eagles, the Auditor-General, as Receiver-General; and Mr. O'Brien, 1st Clerk in the Audit Office, as Auditor-General.

26. The Customs Department was separated from that of the Receiver-General, and Mr R. Robson, appointed Collector, arrived in November; Mr. Farnum, 1st Clerk to the Receiver-General, became 1st Clerk of the Customs; and Mr. Horsford, 2nd Clerk of the Receiver-General, became 1st Clerk in the same office. These changes involved others among the subordinate officers. Mr. Farfan was appointed Warden and Supervisor of Arima in place of Mr. Bourne dismissed; Mr. H. Pasea, Warden and Supervisor of Caroni in place of Mr. Farfan, transferred to Arima; Messrs. Bowen and Lacroix, Wardens respectively of St. Ann's and Tacarigua, retired on pensions on December 31st; the consequent changes not having taken effect until this year.

27. Commander Larcom, R.N., was appointed Harbour Master, in the place of Mr. Stewart, retired on pension.

Mr. O. FitzGerald was appointed Store Keeper in the place of Mr. S. FitzGerald, deceased.

28. The Medical Department was re-constituted under Dr. S. L. Crane, Surgeon-General, so that each of the other (21) Government medical officers will receive henceforward a fixed salary of 300*l.*, together with allowances varying according to the duties assigned. The officers on first appointment will usually be assistant surgeons of the Port of Spain Hospital, and will receive only the fixed salary of 300*l.* with furnished quarters. From this position they will, if deserving, rise to that of district medical officers, or resident surgeon of one of the hospitals, to which appointments are attached special allowances, ranging from 100*l.* to 200*l.* with permission in case of the former to take private practice. This system, which is, I believe, similar to that of the Indian Medical Service, has several advantages, among which may be specially mentioned those of facilitating the advancement of merit, and the transfer of officers from one position to another, when circumstances render such change desirable.

29. Drs. A. Woodlock, R. Knaggs, and A. H. Martin, were appointed Government Medical Officers during the year. Mr. A. Kerr was appointed Dispenser of the Colonial Hospital in the place of Mr. Gittens, dismissed; and Mr. R. Cockburn, Dispenser of the San Fernando Hospital, in the place of Mr. Inniss, resigned.

30. Mr. A. R. Gray was appointed Chief Collector; Mr. Mahoney, Assistant Collector; and Mr. G. W. Ommanney, Locomotive Superintendent of the Railway.

Imports and Exports.

31. The value of imports in 1876 is stated at 1,666,268*l.* (including 327,776*l.* gold from Venezuela). In 1875 the value was 1,507,794 (including 270,922 in gold).

The stated value of imports from the United Kingdom was—

	£
In 1876 - - -	571,720
„ 1875 - - -	531,611
„ 1874 - - -	488,611

32. The estimated value of exports was 1,636,618*l.*, 1,075,380*l.* representing value of produce and manufactures of the Colony, and 561,238*l.* the value of articles previously imported.

The corresponding figures for 1875 were 1,625,082*l.*, 1,119,626*l.*, and 505,455*l.*, the difference in favour of the former year as regards produce of the Colony being due to a falling off in the sugar crop of 1876 from an unfavourable season.

33. The following table shows the quantities of Colonial produce shipped in the years 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876 :—

—	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Sugar - lbs.	91,732,800	120,046,000	103,092,200	133,489,078	99,739,550	129,801,172	114,921,284
Cacao - „	7,176,588	6,422,038	6,985,904	7,482,091	9,396,531	6,272,540	9,477,123
Molasses - gallons	1,459,247	2,159,205	1,716,930	1,624,998	1,697,131	2,423,049	2,004,508
Rum - „	6,219	36,341	20,806	16,644	39,761	52,162	13,400
Coffee - lbs.	26,300	19,413	4,325	22,225	35,676	14,495	42,846
Cocoa-nuts -	873,329	2,262,927	2,660,905	2,380,871	2,286,295	2,978,218	4,458,046
Bitters - gallons	—	—	—	—	—	2,659	15,160
Asphalt - tons	9,029	3,271	9,099	7,848	9,728	14,864	15,274

34. It will be observed that the only falling off in 1876, as compared with 1875, was in respect of products of the sugar-cane, sugar, rum, and molasses. This was due to a comparatively unfavourable season, the crop of 1875 having been the largest ever raised in the Island.

35. There has, I regret to say, been a still more unfavourable season this year, which has, however, happily been more than compensated by the high price of produce.

General Remarks.

36. There was a complete absence of epidemic disease during the year, and the peace of the Island was, as usual, undisturbed.

Signs, everywhere apparent, show that the Island has in many respects made rapid progress in the last 20 years. Moreover, there seems every probability that this progress will continue. The area of cultivation is continuing to extend in all directions, and the sugar crop of 1878 promises to be the largest ever raised in the Island.

I think, therefore, that the "short crops" of 1876 and 1877 may, to use a familiar metaphor, be looked upon merely as the receding waves of an ever-advancing tide.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. DES VŒUX.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 4.

Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Barbados,
November 12, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for Barbados for 1876. It has reached my hands at a period so much later than usual for the completion of these records (consequent on the delay of printing) that much of the information it contains has lost its freshness and interest. On this account, and on account also of my having administered the Government for but a short time in 1876, I shall condense my observations into as small a space as possible.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total amount collected as revenue in Barbados for 1876 was 117,057*l.*

That for the previous year, 1875, was 132,122*l.*

A falling off in the revenue of upwards of 15,000*l.* is thus indicated. The decrease is to be attributed solely to a decreased sugar crop, and to the sympathy which was thus exercised on many sources of revenue.

I subjoin a table of the principal of those sources which show a considerable deficiency.

	1875.	1876.
	£	£
Tonnage duty - - - -	15,210	11,313
Import duties - - - -	55,712	49,857
20 per cent. on ditto - - - -	11,142	9,961
Duty on rum - - - -	16,895	15,384
Receipts in aid of revenue - - -	4,187	3,387
	£103,146	£89,902

A decrease of above 13,000*l.* is thus accounted for.

Besides the above-named sources of revenue, the under-mentioned are not unworthy of notice. The amounts, however, approximate so closely to the figures of 1875 that I gave them only for 1876.

	£
Port and harbour dues - - -	2,280
Licenses on stills - - - -	1,449
„ malt and spirits - - -	1,785
„ malt and rum - - -	1,265
„ rum - - - -	2,145
Post Office - - - - -	1,944

	£
Militia tax - - - - -	3,377
Superannuation fund - - - -	1,321
	£15,566

There are six or seven distinct sources of income which in the aggregate produce a sum so insignificant that the object of their retention may be asked. The licenses, however, which hawkers, sellers of bread, butchers, owners of hackney carriages, boats, and carts, are obliged to take out, serve the useful purpose of keeping these persons under police supervision.

The expenditure for 1876 was 123,727*l.*, against 126,844*l.*, that of 1875.

Thus, the expenditure of last year exceeded the revenue by 6,670*l.*

I subjoin a list of the principal heads of expenditure, giving the figures of last year as compared with those of the year before.

	1875.	1876.
	£	£
Civil establishment - - - -	4,566	4,661
Customs - - - - -	4,887	4,322
Excise - - - - -	1,157	1,045
Post Office - - - - -	3,172	3,334
Public printing - - - -	1,231	864
Judicial - - - - - -	9,917	10,445
Ecclesiastical - - - -	11,617	11,751
Educational - - - - -	8,124	8,077
Police, inland - - - -	21,433	19,441
„ harbour - - - -	1,413	1,931
Fire brigade - - - - -	1,218	1,066
Gaols and prisons - - - -	6,355	7,879
General hospital - - - -	6,315	5,988
Lazaretto - - - - -	2,691	3,615
Lunatic asylum - - - -	3,453	3,660
Superannuation allowances - - -	2,392	1,981
Roads - - - - -	5,750	4,600
Government House - - - -	241	1,547
Molehead - - - - -	5,248	4,425
Works and buildings - - -	8,013	1,113
Drawback and refund of duty - -	4,449	5,175
Waterworks company - - -	6,580	4,391
Miscellaneous - - - -	2,109	7,539
	£122,331	£118,850

The Post Office cost the Colony nearly 1,400*l.*, as against the 3,334*l.* of expenditure under that head. It yielded a revenue of 1,944*l.*

The police expenditure figures at a large sum, viz., 21,372*l.* for both branches of the service, on shore and afloat.

In an island so densely peopled as Barbados it is necessary to have at all times a large police force available, while with the

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number of ships and sailors frequently in port, and with the local boatmen, always of a lawless character, it is requisite to have a sufficient force to maintain order within the bay.

It will be observed that expenditure under the head of "Superannuation Allowances" is 1,981*l.* Under the returns of revenue there is 1,321*l.* from "Superannuation Fund."

This arises from deductions from the pay of public officers and payments to the fund on account of retrospective services. The difference between these two sums, 660*l.*, is, therefore, the actual cost to the Colony for 1876.

Four thousand six hundred pounds, the expenditure under the head of "Roads," must not be regarded as what is annually spent in Barbodos upon them.

The annual allowances from the Treasury to the several parochial road boards is 5,450*l.*, and when any portion remains undrawn in one year it is applied for in the next. Besides this sum of 4,600*l.*, 7,377*l.* was raised and expended on the roads of the Island in 1876 by the Road Commissioners. The roads in the Island are generally excellent.

The sum spent on Government House is returned at 1,547*l.* This was laid out in the early part of the year, a special grant having been voted by the House of Assembly for the purpose of repainting and refurnishing it. Government House, which is a handsome and commodious building, was much improved by the outlay.

It is probably inferior to no Governor's residence (except perhaps that at Trinidad) in the West Indies.

The sum 5,175*l.* expended under the head of "Drawback and Refund of Duty" requires some explanation. It is partly the Custom House duties returned to the troops quartered in Barbados, who receive articles for their use duty free.* It is principally, however, the duty returned to shippers of certain specified goods, not permitted to be warehoused, and upon which duty was paid prior to their being landed.

The principal item in the miscellaneous expenditure (7,539*l.*) is, 4,375*l.* subsidy for a year and nine months to the West Indian and Pacific Telegraph Company. Telegrams sent on public account cost 864*l.*

Expenses of troops aiding civil power 361*l.*, and remuneration to special constables during the riots in the early part of the year 294*l.*

Apart from the general revenues of the Colony, local revenues are raised and expended by the vestries of the eleven parishes into which Barbados is divided.

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* This sum in 1876 was 1,576*l.*

These sums are principally appropriated to poor relief, parochial education, and church expenses.*

The local revenues amount in the gross to 26,049*l.*

The total is thus made up—

	£
Parish of St. Philip - - - -	1,541
„ St. James - - - -	1,202
„ St. Thomas - - - -	1,136
„ St. Peter - - - -	1,379
„ St. Andrew - - - -	749
„ St. Lucy - - - -	959
„ Christ Church - - -	1,317
„ St. John - - - -	1,459
„ St. Michael - - - -	14,155
„ St. Joseph - - - -	617
„ St. George - - - -	1,535
	£26,049

The sum of 7,377*l.* has already been named as that raised by the Road Commissioners. It is independent of the above local revenue.

The interest of the local revenues of this Colony centres round the expenditure of the several parishes on poor relief, which is exclusively administered parochially, and entirely irresponsibly.

I would call your Lordship's attention to the total want of uniformity in the forms in which the annual statement of income and expenditure is made in the returns of the several parishes, and, in particular, to the want of explicitness which allows one of them (Christ Church) to group under one head the two very dissimilar items of poor relief and the education of the poor.

The sums expended on poor relief are considerable, and show a desire to meet the urgent claims resulting from a redundant population. Taking a survey of the last six years (from 1871 to 1876 inclusive) they amount in the aggregate to 53,363*l.* 14*s.* *i.e.*, to an average of 8,893*l.* 19*s.* per annum for the entire Island. In the several parishes, however, there is nothing whatever to regulate the amount to be raised and expended for this purpose; and your Lordship will see, from the appended table, that the amount so raised is very far indeed from bearing a just proportion to the population of the several parishes, all of which, as regards the general distribution of poverty, except perhaps St. Michael, containing Bridgetown, are pretty much on a level.

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* Four hundred and ninety pounds was paid by the 11 parishes for the destruction of rats, the reward of one penny being by statute payable for each head ; 117,600 would thus appear to have been destroyed in 1876.

Name of Parish.	Population.	Amount raised for Poor Relief in 1876.	Total Amount thus raised in Six Years.	Average Amount per Annum.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Michael - -	48,587	5,420 7 3	27,332 19 0	4,555 9 10
Christ Church - -	17,924	*541 18 11	†2,120 8 8	353 8 1
St. Philip - -	17,262	732 15 10½	3,928 1 2	654 13 6
St. George - -	14,175	941 18 8½	3,989 4 2	664 17 4
St. Peter - -	10,313	501 7 8	3,643 4 3	607 4 0½
St. Thomas - -	10,140	370 8 8½	2,074 4 3	345 14 0½
St. John - -	9,698	793 14 5½	‡2,801 7 4	466 17 11
St. James - -	9,061	355 17 0	2,360 6 4	393 7 9
St. Lucy - -	8,915	410 5 7½	2,034 5 2	339 0 10½
St. Joseph - -	7,947	292 18 0	§1,724 2 11	287 7 2
St. Andrew - -	7,572	262 7 1	1,355 10 9	225 18 5½
	161,594	10,623 19 3½	53,363 14 0	8,893 19 0

Public Debt.

The total net public debt is 9,539*l.* Even this small sum can hardly be regarded as a debt. It would be more correct to speak of it as a guarantee, for which the Colony is responsible, 25,000*l.* having been borrowed in 1861 in aid of the Bridgetown Water-works Company. This the company are repaying in annual sums of 1,000*l.* In this way they have paid 12,000*l.* to the end of 1876. This sum has been carried to the credit of a sinking fund. It is deposited in the Colonial Bank at 4 per cent., payable half-yearly, when the interest is added to the principal.

The 25,000*l.* has been still further reduced by the redemption of 950*l.* of debentures.

Military Expenditure.

The expenditure of Her Majesty's Government under this head was 56,467*l.*

In 1875 it was 52,820*l.* The principal items which form the total of 56,467*l.* are—

	£
Regimental and staff pay - - -	21,467
Provisions, transports, &c. - - -	20,140
Commissariat and ordnance supply - -	5,492
Medical staff service and supplies - -	2,198
Royal Engineer Department, works and buildings - - - - -	4,849
Passages and freights - - - -	1,083

Militia.

There was no expenditure for the militia service in 1876.

* Includes education.
† Includes education for half the period.
‡ Exclusive of 447*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* spent in 1873 on building and furnishing almshouse.
§ Exclusive of 96*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* spent on enlarging almshouse.

Public Works.

The expenditure on works and buildings, comparing the two past years, are given as under :—

——	1875.	1876.
	£	£
Works and buildings - - -	8,013	1,113
Molehead - - - - -	5,248	4,425
Public buildings - - - -	105	329
Government House - - - -	241	1,547

The first of these sums for 1876, viz., 1,113*l.*, is accounted for chiefly by the purchase of land to widen the careenage, and by expenditure incurred in connexion with the new lighthouse, that on Ragged Point.

The 4,425*l.* (Molehead) was expended on the working expenses of the dredge, maintained for the purpose of deepening the careenage. 3,000*l.* was incurred under this head alone.

A diving bell cost 840*l.* It was purchased with the intention of blasting rock under water in the careenage.

The expenditure on Government House is alluded to elsewhere.

Legislation.

Of the 29 Acts passed during the year 1876 very few deserve special notice. Four secure to patentees the benefit of their inventions. Three concern the Bishop of the Diocese and the government of the Anglican Church. Two have reference to vestries.

One extends the time previously given to the Barbados Railway Company for executing its works. One makes provision for the Harbour Police and one grants a subsidy to the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company. The principal number of the others have reference to Acts formerly passed and requiring renewal or amendment.

Political Franchise.

Twenty-four members are returned to the Barbados House of Assembly. Of these, Bridgetown returns 2 members, and each of the 11 parishes returns 2 members also. The constituencies who return these representatives vary in numbers from 398 in Bridgetown to 38 in the parish of St. Andrew. The total number of registered electors at last registration in November 1876 was 1,664. In the previous November the number was 1,279.

A freehold estate of the annual value of 12*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, a leasehold of 64*l.*, an occupancy of any building rated at 32*l.* 1*s.*, or being a parochial taxpayer of 3*l.* 4*s.* for two years, confers the franchise.

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Councils and Assembly.

Important changes were made in the course of 1876 in the composition of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

In January the following gentlemen composed the Executive Council:—

The Governor.	Sir T. Graham Briggs, Bart.
Grant E. Thomas, M.D.	Joseph A. Haynes.
N. Foderingham.	Charles Packer, Chief Justice.
N. Jones Pile.	John Griffith.
Sir John Sealy, K.C.M.G.	

With the exception of the Governor, these gentlemen were also the Legislative Council.

In December the following was the Executive Council:—

The Governor.	The Colonial Secretary.
The Officer Commanding H.M. Troops.	The Attorney-General.

At this second period the Legislative Council stood as follows:—

Sir T. Graham Briggs.	John Griffith.
The Major-General Commanding the Troops.	W. B. Griffith.
The Colonial Secretary.	Thomas Kerr.
The Attorney-General.	Wm. Manford.

As regards the Assembly, which is an annual Parliament, there has been no change in the return of members at the last two elections; the same gentlemen having been chosen by the 12 constituencies. A Parliament was summoned to meet on the 23rd of November 1875. This expired on the 22nd of November 1876. Since then no new writs were issued till the 6th November 1877.

Civil Establishment.

Under this heading in the Blue Book there is a nominal list of 235 officers employed in the Civil Service of the Colony. Of these, there are 47 ecclesiastics, including his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese.

Of judicial officers there are 20. This number includes the magistrates' clerks.

Eight are medical men, of these several hold more than one post under Government. The remuneration, however, of the best paid is by no means excessive.

Among so many officers some changes in the year took place.

I shall, however, only name the changes made in the head of the Executive which occurred in 1876. Mr. Pope Hennessy, who had assumed the Government of Barbados late in the previous year, left the Colony on the 1st December to assume the Government of Hong Kong to which he had been promoted.

As Lieutenant-Governor of the Windward Islands, I relieved Mr. Hennessy, assuming the administration in chief of the group until the arrival of Captain George C. Strahan, R.A., who landed on the 19th December, and was sworn in the next day as Lieutenant-Governor.

Pensions.

Pensions to the amount of 1,952*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* were paid to the under-mentioned gentlemen:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sir R. B. Clarke, at - - -	1,400	0	0
Sir John Sealy, at - - -	330	0	0
Rev. F. B. Grant, at - - -	210	18	4
J. B. Chase, at - - -	161	0	0
	£2,101	18	4

The difference between these two sums arises in part from the pensions not commencing to be paid until several months of the year had elapsed.

The Superannuation Act of 1870 secures these pensions.

Legislative enactment has provided 70*l.* a year as pensions to five individuals for public services given.

Ninety-two other persons are pensioned. They are chiefly either worn-out police officers, their widows, or their children. These are paid on the grant of the Governor by the Consolidated Board, out of the Police "Reward Fund" voted for the purpose. The Reward Fund is returned at 1,025*l.* for 1876.

The Legislative grant is 1,200*l.* per annum, and the contributions of the policemen about 500*l.* a year, by stoppages of a day's pay from each man employed. The sum paid these 92 recipients was 1,719*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

Gratuities to the amount of 70*l.* were also given among the police.

Population.

The last census was taken in 1871, when a total of 162,042 souls appeared to be the population of Barbados. This number will have probably increased to 180,000 at the end of 1876, spread over an area of 166 square miles.

The white population in 1871 was 16,560. The coloured was 145,482. Of the eleven parishes into which the Island is divided, St. Michael (in which is Bridgetown) is the most populous, containing 48,587 souls. Of this number 27,549 are females, who thus exceed by over 6,500 their due proportion.

In 1876 there were recorded 6,381 baptisms, 541 marriages, and 3,917 burials.

Comparing the returns of baptisms and burials, a gain to the population of nearly 2,500 in the twelvemonth would appear. Infant mortality, however, among black children is extreme. The number of marriages recorded among such a large population is very small.

The negro does not, however, regard the absence of this ceremony as any bar to cohabitation. The male and female commonly cohabit several years, and then, if living happily together, marry.

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They regard marriage as the crowning act of such a life, and, as a rule dislike to die unmarried. Instances are on record of long lives of cohabitation terminating in old age by marriage.

Education.

I will call your Lordship's attention to an addition to this section in the Blue Book of 1876, viz., a return of higher schools, whether endowed or State-aided. These are grouped according to the usual method now adopted in the classification of non-elementary schools in England, into three grades.

The central schools for boys and girls in Bridgetown are there described as higher schools, and, presumably as such, enjoy the large legislative grant of 800*l.* per annum in addition to a small income from endowment.

They do not, however, appear to furnish a quality of education much, if at all, superior to the ordinary type of primary school. They have already been unfavourably reported on by the Education Commission of 1874–5, and, doubtless, some reconstruction of them is inevitable. In forming the averages which I am about to bring under your Lordship's notice, I have purposely eliminated these two schools as not properly belonging to the department of higher education, though, technically, they are properly included in the return and separated from the elementary schools.

Of the second grade schools, one appears to be in a very feeble condition, returning only eight pupils at the close of 1876. It is but fair to remark that this school occupies a very exceptional position in the heart of the entirely isolated and sparsely inhabited parish of St. Andrew. If any education above that of the elementary schools is to be provided for the manager's and book-keeper's children in that parish, it is difficult to see how this school is to be very materially improved. From its geographical situation it must necessarily be fed only by St. Andrew's parish, and, conversely, the inhabitants of that parish, from its configuration and isolation, could never profit by educational advantages outside their own natural boundaries.

Of the first grade schools, Harrison's College, in Bridgetown, is largely aided by legislative grants and guarantees; it is well officered with competent masters, and is rising in numbers and general estimation. The Codrington Grammar School, or Lodge School, is aided by a terminable grant from the Legislature of 600*l.* per annum, saddled, however, with inconvenient and hardly wise conditions. This grant expires in the month of June 1877. Its present position and prospects can hardly be considered satisfactory.

It will be seen, on taking a general survey of these tables, that 220*l.* per annum is expended on this type of education from local revenues, *i.e.*, from vestry taxation, and 2,822*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* from the revenue of the Colony by legislative grant, while 1,988*l.* 5*s.* 1½*d.* is contributed by the pupils themselves. 390 children in all are being thus instructed, or, eliminating the pupils of the boys' and

girls' central schools, 245 boys of the upper and middle class in the entire Colony. Each of these boys costs the Colony 8*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, and, on the other hand, each contributes on an average 7*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* towards his education.

To teach these 245 boys 12 masters are employed, *i.e.*, one master to about 20 boys. The head master of Harrison's College receives (as he ought) a good salary, viz., 920*l.*, capable of rising with the increase of the school to 1,000*l.*; the other 11 masters of the different schools receive on an average something under 230*l.* each. Considering that of these 11, six are graduates (most of them honour-men of some distinction) of the three ancient English Universities, this does not seem an extravagant sum paid in masters' salaries.

Your Lordship will not fail to note the very small number of boys, bearing in mind the numbers of the upper and middle class in Barbados, who are thus receiving higher education.

This is to be regretted, as it appears to me that the key to the ameliorating of social and other irregularities in Barbados is to be looked for far more surely in the enlightenment and culture of its middle class than in the improved education of the lower, desirable as this, beyond all doubt, is. If juster and more courteous treatment is to be hereafter spontaneously and as a matter of right feeling accorded to the labouring population and to the coloured race generally, this must be produced by a more liberal and enlightened training of the boys who are hereafter to be the planters and merchants of the community, and by that free intercourse during childhood and youth on a footing of equality as pupils in the same schools, which is likely to be fostered by the bringing up in similar traditions, and under like discipline and like methods, of white and coloured boys alike, as is the case in all of these higher schools.

I regret that in this table no statistics are furnished of a valuable institution in this Colony for higher education, viz., Codrington College.

It is supported by a munificent endowment bequeathed by General Codrington to this Colony, and held in trust by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Its affairs are entirely managed by the committee of that society, and are sometimes, I fear, neglected through the wide range and heavy press of business necessarily devolving on that body. It is to be regretted that they do not select from among themselves a small governing body for the college, and entrust the entire government of the college and administration of its affairs to their care.

The Colony marks its interest in this institution by expending something under 100*l.* per annum on the maintenance of three Island scholars, one being elected annually.

Until recently the college did not appear to command a large amount of public confidence.

Through the exertions, however, of its present visitor, the Bishop of Barbados, it has been affiliated to the University of Durham, so that all its students have the advantage of being

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subjected to the same intellectual tests as the resident students of that University (without incurring the heavy expense of a journey to and residence in England), and of obtaining the same academic degrees.

The effect of this affiliation has been almost to double the number of students; from 10 or 11, as they were in 1873, they have risen to 20 or 21, as they now are. In fact, the college is now full, and urgently needs an augmentation of its very small teaching staff.

On elementary education I have but little to observe, the more so as your Lordship has before you the lengthy and exhaustive report on these schools made by Mr. Savage under your Lordship's instructions. Their number, the number of children frequenting them, and their general efficiency, as expressed in the premium grants, offer no marked contrast with last year or those immediately preceding. The misgiving that the instruction given in these schools is too much narrowed by the teachers to the mere object of obtaining passes in the minimum subjects, and is, consequently, of a mechanical and unintelligent character, which is expressed in Mr. Savage's report, seems also to be shared by persons in this Colony who ought to be capable of forming an opinion.

I will also draw your Lordship's attention to another defect pointed out by Mr. Savage, and adverted to by him in his recently published report of the Government inspection of schools in Jamaica for 1876, viz., the principal of Government inspection adopted in Barbados of basing the payment of Government grants on the individual passes of the pupils, instead of upon the general merits of the whole work of the teachers. "This attempt," he says, "has the inevitable effect of narrowing down the examina-"tions to the mere mechanical results by which passes are "secured, and thus no time is left for testing intellectual de-"velopment, which, after all, is the main consideration."

Besides this narrowing effect upon the general teaching and intelligence of the children, and the want of wholesome stimulus to the teachers to do more than cultivate a bare uniform dead level of mediocrity, this microscopic, not to say tedious process of individual examination consumes so much of the inspector's time that it prevents the possibility of that frequent and regular testing of the work of all schools which is so necessary to secure continuous effort on the teacher's part and sustained efficiency in each school.

This can only be done by annual inspection.

Your Lordship, however, will observe on perusing the inspector's report, published along with the statistics on education in the Blue Book, that although the Act appointing an inspector was passed in 1858, 19 years ago, when the present inspector was appointed, he describes himself in that report as having completed his *second* circuit of infant schools and but *four* circuits of primary schools. It must not be supposed that I am arraigning the industry and efficiency of the present inspector of schools,

who is a diligent, intelligent, and valuable public officer, but I am raising doubts whether the present system of inspection is satisfactory, which appears to necessitate such rare testing of each school by its results.

I must also call your Lordship's attention to the inadequate salaries of the teachers of the elementary schools, especially the infant or dame school mistresses, and to the absence of any training institution in the Colony to train these persons for their work, and in particular to instruct them in the most approved methods of imparting instruction and of educating generally. These points, however, are handled in detail in the report of the Commission on Education already referred to, as well as in that of Mr. Savage.

Imports and Exports.

The prosperity of Barbados arises from or depends on:— (1.) The product of the soil; (2.) Trade with neighbouring Colonies. This latter is quite a minor source, its limits being shown by the amount of re-exports. These will be found to be as follows:—

—	Re-exported to neighbouring Colonies.	Imported from neighbouring Colonies.
	£	£
In 1874 - -	282,300	63,900
„ 1875 - -	306,200	72,200
„ 1876 - -	270,000	76,700

To the extent of these re-exports Barbados served as a depôt, the importor here taking his toll of profit before the goods reached the purchaser in the neighbouring Colonies.

The chief source of profit, however, is the export of produce, as subsequent figures will show. The produce exported is almost entirely sugar and molasses. The minor products I need not particularly notice, and there is a yearly amount of some 10,000*l.* in value of whale oil brought in by small whaling vessels and shipped from the Island.

The following figures show the main statistics of the Island for the last three years:—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.
Number of hogsheads of sugar exported	47,289	65,012	37,848
Number of puncheons of molasses exported - - -	28,066	39,173	24,001
	£	£	£
Value of this sugar at 15*l.* per hhd. -	709,300	975,100	567,700
Value of molasses at 4*l.* 10*s.* per puncheon - - - -	126,300	176,200	108,000
Total of these two - -	£835,600	1,151,300	675,700

—	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£
Total imports - - - -	1,049,248	1,187,493	1,027,873
Total exports - - - -	1,140,769	1,474,910	964,262
Of the imports there was re-exported -	282,318	306,190	269,925
Whale oil re-exported - - -	10,185	7,087	10,745
Imports proper, that is, with re-exports including whale oil deducted -	756,745	874,216	747,201
Exports proper, with re-exports deducted, but including whale oil -	858,451	1,168,720	694,337

It is to be borne in mind that the extent of a coming crop can be broadly estimated with sufficient accuracy to admit of imports being governed accordingly. On the other hand, seeing that, independent of actual manufacturing operations, a sugar estate will have the same sum expended on it in one year as in another, let the crops be large or small, it follows that it is only to a limited proportionate extent imports are affected by exports.

If the year 1876 is taken as compared with 1875, a decrease in exports proper of 40 per cent. is seen, while the decrease in imports was only 13·44 per cent.

The amount of decrease in the imports was 127,000*l.*, and arose mainly thus:—

—	Decreased.	Re-exported.	
		In 1875.	In 1876.
	£	£	£
Corn - - -	11,800	7,559	6,238
Coal - - -	4,700	—	516
Fish (salt) - -	7,500	25,700	19,349
Guano - - -	8,400	27,370	21,010
Cotton goods - -	17,453	5,668	531
Lumber - - -	5,300	1,422	1,088
Mules - - -	12,400	7,635	5,835
Staves and shooks -	36,000	9,506	6,871

The figures of the re-exports are added to show how far the overplus in 1875 entered into consumption. The extent to which the expenses of the estates must be maintained, even in the face of short crops, is shown by the uniform consumption of articles of food, such as—

—	In 1875.	In 1876.	Re-exported.	
			1875.	1876.
	£	£	£	£
Salt fish - - -	54,525	47,000	25,700	19,349
Corn meal - -	52,400	52,200	10,028	9,243
Flour - - -	140,800	132,600	88,051	74,701

and thus it is proved that imports to a large extent are not governed by exports.

There are, perhaps, but few people resident in Barbados that are living on investments independent of—that is, away from—the Island.

As a rule (it might be called a general rule), residents having money to invest, say beyond house property, place it on mortgage on sugar property. The sugar estates are the "Consols" of Barbados. They are regarded as undoubtedly safe, and while the bank only gives four per cent. the sugar estate gives six. These investments in estates can hardly be regarded as ordinary mortgages; those lending the money are satisfied to leave it, in fact they may be said to be partners in the property, with this condition, however, that, be the crop large or small, their interests must be paid.

If I am right that the only source of revenue is the sugar property, then it follows that the balance between imports and exports proper is a very safe gauge of the prosperity of the Island.

I only speak of it as a gauge because the imports virtually pay the interest to local mortgagees as they spend their incomes in the Island.

To make the statement more correct there should be deducted from the imports the amount of military expenditure, as this may be regarded as spent on unproductive labour.

I arrive, therefore, at the following figure:—

——	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£
Imports proper - - - -	756,745	874,216	747,201
Deduct military expenditure - -	69,643	52,820	56,467
	687,102	821,396	690,734
Exports proper - - -	858,451	1,168,720	694,337
Difference - - - -	171,349	347,324	3,603
From this deduct minor exports -	22,851	17,420	18,637
Remains the probable return from sugar estates after payment of interest to local mortgagees - - -	148,498	329,904	Deficit. 15,034
The crop in hhds. of sugar (as before stated) being - - -	47,289	65,012	37,848

I deduct the minor exports as above, and should, properly speaking, deduct a pro ratâ amount of imports, as the imports go to produce the minor exports as well as the sugar.

The proportion, however, is so small that I have not carried the calculation to this nicety.

A statement of this kind has to be viewed with a reference to the proportion of resident and absentee proprietors. The broad principle will be admitted that if Barbados were importing more

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than it exported, seeing its sources of income are all local, it would be deteriorating.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the amounts of imports is affected by the presence or otherwise of the proprietors. If resident, then the imports would be increased by the quantity consumed by this addition to the money-spending population.

It is not possible to ascertain what is the amount of mortgages held in the Island, or what amount out of the Island. The above figures show, however, what was (or was not) available after satisfying local claims.

Shipping.

The total number of vessels entered at Barbados for 1876 was 1,199, with a tonnage of 174,535.

In the previous year these numbers were respectively 1,373 and 205,359.

Of the vessels entered in 1876, 969 were British, and 230 foreign.

Of the gross tonnage (174,535), 44,231 were foreign.

The largest amount of tonnage is from Great Britain. 112 vessels, registering upwards of 61,000 tons, entered inwards. This is about 2,400 tons less than in 1875.

The trade with the British North American Colonies was also considerable. It was carried on in 111 vessels, registering 16,000 tons. These numbers were exceeded in 1875. They were respectively 150 and 23,230.

1,202 vessels cleared outwards in 1876 with crews numbering about 9,500 men, and a gross tonnage of 176,201. In 1875 the number of vessels clearing outwards was 1,378.

The tonnage was 203,817.

Agriculture.

The Blue Book of 1876 does not afford much information which can be properly called "agricultural."

The compiler reports his inability to fill up the forms without legislative enactment. He states that a strong and general aversion to make returns is manifested by the planters, some on the plea of trouble, but most from an unexplained reluctance to give any information on the subject. It appears, however, that of the 106,470 acres in Barbados, about 100,000 are under cultivation, and 6,470 are uncultivated, being occupied by houses or woods or barren. There are 508 estates in cultivation.

Sugar-cane is of course the staple crop. "Provisions," however, are extensively cultivated. These are chiefly yams, eddoes, and sweet potatoes, which are largely consumed by the lower classes. Aloes are also cultivated. "Provisions" were very abundant in 1876, consequent on the fertilising rain which fell in the latter part of the year. This abundance saved the working classes much privation.

Predial wages are given at 8*d.* a day, though an able-bodied labourer can earn from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a day within the ordinary working hours.

Domestic servants are always hired by the month. Their wages vary from 8*s.* 4*d.* to 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

They frequently provide themselves with food.

The wages of masons and carpenters are returned at from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

It must be borne in mind, however, that as there is no apprentice law in Barbados, few tradesmen attain the skill and excellence of English journeymen.

The execution of work also occupies far more time than it does in England.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

The only manufacture finding a place in the Blue Book is that of sugar. The number of sugar works is given as about 500. Steam machinery and the latest and most improved methods for the manufacture of sugar are gradually superseding the windmill and the ruder processes of manipulation.

There are two sugar refineries in the Island.

In the district called "Scotland" there are oil wells which last year yielded 45,800 gallons of crude oil, valued at 3,435*l.*

Fish is abundant and enters largely into the diet of the lower classes. Flying fish is taken in certain months of the year, and is justly prized for its delicacy and excellence.

There is a whaling station at Speightstown. No returns, however, appear of its produce.

Gaols and Prisoners.

A total of 3,548 prisoners was committed to gaol in 1876. The committals in the previous year were 3,297, showing an increase last year of 251. This is readily accounted for by the numerous arrests of rioters made in the course of the summer.

The following table shows the comparative number of prisoners committed during the past two years; distinguishing also the sexes.

A RETURN showing the comparative NUMBER of PRISONERS committed in the years 1875 and 1876.

Prisons.	Committed in 1875.			Committed in 1876.			Increase in 1876.	Decrease in 1876.	Total Increase in 1876.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Glendairy - -	—	1,069	1,069	138	945	1,083	14	—	—
Town Hall - -	1,507	—	1,507	1,695	—	1,695	188	—	—
District A. - -	—	338	338	89	356	445	107	—	—
District C. - -	124	—	124	181	12	193	69	—	—
District B. and D., juveniles - -	259	—	259	132	—	132	—	127	251
Grand total -	1,890	1,407	3,297	2,235	1,313	3,548	378	127	251

The Town Hall Gaol was closed by Mr. Hennessy in November as being unfit for the purposes of a prison. This was the only place where by law debtors also could be confined.

Since that period, therefore, imprisonment for debt in Barbados has practically ceased.

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Enumerated below are the existing prisons of the Colony, with the accommodation which each affords:—

Glendairy - - - -	72
Do. Lower Prison - -	198
District A. Prison - - -	70
Do. B. do. - - -	55
Do. C. do. - - -	75
Do. D. do. - - -	70
Accommodation for -	540

Glendairy Prison, which is close to Bridgetown, was erected in 1855. It consists of two separate buildings within a high wall enclosing several acres of land. The Upper Prison is arranged in cells. The Lower Prison in wards.

This prison is used exclusively for males. District A. Prison is near Glendairy and is kept for female convicts. So is District C. Prison, which is about 10 miles from Bridgetown.

District B. Prison is about half way to C., and D. Prison is about eight miles, in a northerly direction, from the capital. The last-named place of confinement is for juvenile offenders. None of these district prisons are arranged in cells. The prisoners associate together in large wards. A re-arrangement as regards the sexes of prisoners confined in these prisons took place in 1876.

This arrangement, as described in the table above, continues in force.

There is a police station and a magistrate's court at each of these district prisons. Stone-breaking is almost the only hard labour of a useful character, except the employment of gangs for various occupations of public utility. There is a treadmill at Glendairy, but its power is not utilised. Stone-breaking is not, however, a very lucrative employment, as its profits are placed at 10*l.* The cost of all the prisons in the Island is returned at 7,879*l.* for the year. Breaches of prison discipline are dealt with by the visiting magistrates. Their sentences, however, require the Governor's confirmation.

There is a return in the Blue Book of these minor punishments for the years 1875 and 1876. In the former year the number was 2,152, in the latter 664. No satisfactory explanation is afforded for such a decrease in 1876 as 1,448.

Mr. Watts, the Inspector of Prisons has concluded his report in a paragraph well deserving consideration: he says,

"If we are to improve our present prison system, our first step should be to erect 100 additional cells at Glendairy. This could be accomplished at a great saving by adopting the recommendations set forth in my last year's report. When these cells are completed, all the male prisoners could be incarcerated within the walls, when useful trades could be taught the convicts. The police clothing and boots in due time could be made by the prisoners, in these articles alone there would be a great saving to the public. The next step should be to make the Town Hall a

prison for all females, the particulars for carrying it out are also set forth in my report for 1875. Unless a commencement is made we shall go on year after year in the same old beaten track without in any way benefiting the large class of men and women who, unfortunately, become inmates of our prisons, and have strong claims on our compassion."

Hospitals and Asylums.

The General Hospital of Barbados is a large and well-built structure of two stories. It is situated in Bridgetown, occupying an open area of considerable extent. Accommodation for 245 patients is afforded. Applicants, however, are frequently refused admission from want of room, more especially as regards ulcer cases.

The wards are large and well ventilated, though the ventilation, which is secured by means of windows only, is perhaps not always of the most convenient description. The sanitary arrangements are open to objection, but their imperfections have been recognised and will be amended.

In the beginning of 1876 there were 235 male and female patients in hospital.

During the year 838 males and 591 females were admitted. Of these, 881 were discharged as cured, and 250 as relieved.

200 deaths occurred in the hospital last year.

I select from the table of cases treated in the hospital the following as the most remarkable.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
	220	
Ulcers - - - - -		21
Phthisis - - - - -	223	52
Burns, fractures, and injuries - -	133	6
Rheumatism - - - - -	88	1
Dropsy - - - - -	20	13

That in a climate so mild and equable as Barbados there should be so many cases of phthisis and rheumatism is worthy of note. The prevalence of these diseases is perhaps attributable to the poor and innutritious diet of the lower classes as well as to their careless and improvident habits. To the same causes ulcer is also in a great measure to be attributed.

The ulcer ward is separate from the main building. This ward is always full. The house surgeon informs me that even when cured these patients evince the greatest reluctance to leave the hospital, and not unfrequently irritate their sores by artificial means to protract a cure.

The management of the hospital is vested in a board of directors of which the Governor is chairman.

From among the directors a house committee is selected. These gentlemen meet monthly, and carry out the instructions of the Board, superintending its entire management.

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A house surgeon resides in the hospital and is constantly in attendance. Three other medical men pay the hospital periodical visits at stated times. They are called "visiting physicians."

The cost to the public of the General Hospital in 1876 was 5,988*l.* In 1875 it was 6,316.

The Contagious Diseases Hospital (or Lock) does not find a separate place in the Blue Book, as it is chiefly maintained by Imperial funds. It is, however, a very useful institution, and it is attended by a skilful and experienced medical officer.

The number of cases treated represents very imperfectly the extent of disease in Bridgetown.

This would be more effectually checked were male patients admitted to the General Hospital. It is, however, in contemplation to do so.

The Lock Hospital is in Bridgetown, and is fenced in by a high wall. It has accommodation for 50 females. The numbers in hospital vary from this complement to 20 or 25. 802*l.* was the cost of this hospital last year. Of this sum the Imperial Government contributed 625*l.*, or 25*l.* a year for 25 beds.

The Lazaretto, or leper asylum, is nearly four miles out of Bridgetown. It is situated on a healthy site 85 feet above the sea, from which it is distant only a few hundred yards.

The accommodation, as far as it goes, is good. It is, however, much too limited.

Thirty-nine males and 38 females occupied, as resident patients, the wards of this asylum last year.

There were 15 admissions, but as the hospital has beds for only 77, this number was maintained by the death of 10 and the discharge of 5 as relieved. 8 of the patients who died were suffering from tubercular, 2 from anæsthetic, leprosy.

Medical authorities are of opinion that leprosy is not contagious, though others differ from this opinion. All, however, agree that the main source of the spread of the disease may be traced to hereditary taint. It is, therefore, very desirable to encourage lepers to avail themselves of an asylum where at least the sexes are not permitted to mingle.

I am informed that were there sufficient accommodation, at least 50 more lepers would avail themselves of the shelter of this institution. Dr. Hutson, the medical superintendent of the lunatic asylum, is also visiting physician to the Lazaretto.

The present lunatic asylum must be regarded as only a temporary refuge for the insane.

The greater number of the wooden buildings which compose it are in an advanced state of decay. They are wretched huts, without windows or other means of ventilation. The absolute necessity for a new asylum has been recognised, though circumstances have prevented the commencement of the work. Additional accommodation (since supplied) was much required.

The asylum occupies an elevated site, of about six acres of ground, not very far from Glendairy Prison. It is divided into

two portions, one for the male and the other for the female patients. BARBADOS.

The daily average number of patients in 1876 was 133. 17 deaths occurred. Only three of these deaths seem traceable to the mental malady with which the patients were affected.

A few of the inmates of the asylum, being artizans, and able to work at the trades they formerly pursued, are usefully and profitably employed.

All the washing, tailoring, and needlework of the institution is also done by the patients. A short service is held each Sunday; this is attended by an average of 30.

I wish I could add to these hospitals and asylums the notice of an asylum for the blind. At present no such institution exists in Barbados, though the want of one is much felt. The blind of the Island seek a precarious living by alms in the streets of Bridgetown. There are eight almshouses in the Island supported from parish funds, administered by the vestries: 258 inmates occupied these. In the parish of Saint Philip, 20 widows are separately provided for in houses built for them in that parish.

Emigration and Immigration.

The fourth annual report of the Superintendent of Emigration contains two or three points which give it exceptional interest and value.

The year 1876 was the first year in which Clause 9 of the Emigration Act was fully acted on.

It is, however, a significant fact, that out of the entire sum allotted by the Governor in Council, viz., 210*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, 75*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.* remained undrawn, because, after the grants were made to the petitioners, the wives declined to accompany them, and it is most properly a rule of the office, that married men getting the benefit of the public money shall take their families with them.

In this year also the Order in Council prohibiting recruiting on the part of emigration agents from other colonies was cancelled, and a new and carefully drawn up code of rules to regulate recruiting substituted for it.

I invite your Lordship's attention to paragraphs 21 and following, as illustrating the wisdom of removing a needless restriction fully as much in the interest of Barbados as of her neighbour colonies. The following are the paragraphs alluded to:—

"21. Two facts, obtained in the experience of the office, indicate the propriety of the new operations. (1.) Illicit recruiting, whenever it can be practised, is successful. Secret agents do not fail to procure labourers. They may be detected. But when they are found out, they have got the people they sought. (2.) The second fact is, that more of the country people are ignorant of the facilities of emigration than it was supposed. Agricultural labourers come to Bridgetown, and pay 10*s.* each to the masters of the trading schooners for a passage to Demerara, and they take their own provisions. Thus very

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many are evidently not aware that the Demerara Government sets apart several thousand dollars a year to pay four dollars a head for their passage and provisions. I did not know the extent of this ignorance till an intelligent master of a schooner pointed it out to me. He was showing me how many more labourers he carried away than passed through the Emigration Office, and he said he would not tell them of the free passage they could get by simply applying at the Emigration Office, because on the whole, the labourers' ten shillings paid his vessel better than the four dollars of the Demerara Government.

"22. If the success of illicit recruiting, and the country people's ignorance of the facilities of emigration, point to the propriety of licensing recruiters, other considerations demonstrate the necessity and advantage of legalising them. Special attention is called to the following quotations. (1.) In the late Assembly, at the passing of the Bill to prevent cruelty to animals, a prominent member said, that 'he believed 3,000 mules would reap the annual crop, and in point of fact they (the planters) kept from 8,000 to 9,000.' 'It would be good economy to keep fewer animals and feed them better.' Substitute 'labourers' for 'animals,' and the remark would hold equally good. (2.) In the reply of the Council to H.E. Governor Hennessy's speech of the 3rd March, the last paragraph contains this remark. 'With 'regard to emigration as a means of relieving the Island of its 'surplus population, the Council would readily give their attention 'to any measure which might be proposed for promoting it in a 'sound and healthy way, and affording our labourers facilities in 'carrying their labour to other markets.' (3.) In the reply of the Assembly to the same speech, the population of the Island is characterised as 'redundant,' and the suggestion is made that 'one obvious solution of the difficult social problem of ameliorating 'substantially and effectually the condition of the labouring and 'industrial classes of the Colony is to be found in a wholesome 'and intelligent emigration.'"

The same disproportion as in former years appears in this, as regards immigrants relatively to emigrants. It would appear from the actual statistics of the office that 613 went away, and 2,410 returned. This mis-impression is corrected in paragraph 12, by which it appears that the estimated emigrants numbered 3,613, showing an excess over the immigrants of 1,203 persons.

This, no doubt, is an approximately correct conjecture. It is, however, much to be regretted that on a subject so all-important to this over-crowded Colony there should not be an enforced system of registration of all emigration and immigration, whether legal or extra-legal, nor should this be left any longer to conjecture, however well based.

Meteorological Observations.

A concise and interesting table of meteorological observations for the year is appended to the Blue Book. They were taken at

Binfield, in the hilly district called "Scotland," at an elevation of 1,063 feet above the sea.

The mean height of the barometer at 9 a.m. corrected for altitude, and reduced to 32° F., was 30·05 inches, ·13 inch being the mean monthly range for the year.

As regards temperature, the maximum indicated by the thermometer (Kew standard) was 83°·5 on three occasions, in August, September, and November. The minimum was 66° in March, showing an extreme range of 17°·5. February was the coldest, August the hottest month, yet so inconsiderable was the range of temperature exhibited at Binfield throughout the year, that the mean temperatures for those months differed only by 4°·6, being respectively 73°·9 and 78°·5.

Fifty-seven inches and twenty-two hundredths of rain, were registered as falling at Binfield during the year. The greatest rainfall took place in September, when nearly 13 inches were recorded.

According to Sir Rawson Rawson's observations, the average rainfall in Barbados is 57·74.

I cannot more fitly close the scientific portion of this report than by transcribing a letter recently addressed to me by Major Palmer, R.E., an officer whose high scientific attainments are well known.

Geographical errors are of such common occurrence that it is often difficult to obtain a certain position in a distant Colony with mathematical precision.

"Royal Engineer Office, St. Ann's,
October 13, 1877.

"SIR,

"YOUR Excellency is probably aware that, during the winters of 1874–5 and 1875–6, Lieut. Commander F. M. Green, of the U.S. Navy, was employed by the American Hydrographer, in the 'Fortune' and 'Gettysburg,' vessels-of-war, in determining the precise latitudes and longitudes of various points in the West Indies and Central America.

"The necessity for such determinations, especially as regarded the longitudes, had long been known to those interested in the accuracy of marine cartography. No systematic attempt to determine the whole series of longitudes in this region, with relation to each other or to a common base, had ever been made. Groups of longitudes in different parts depended on separate determinations by different methods, and did not harmonise well together. Those, for example, in the western part of the Caribbean Sea depended on the position of the Morro Lighthouse, Havana, as determined 70 years ago from observed occultations of stars by the moon. Further to the east, most of the longitudes in the Virgin Islands and the Lesser Antilles depended on that of St. Croix, as determined by the late Major Lang, from moon-culminations and occultations of stars; but it has for many years been notorious that the longitudes of Martinique and Guadaloupe in this group, as obtained by French surveying officers from moon-culminations, did not harmonise with the English values.

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In other parts of the Caribbean Sea, some of the discrepancies are believed to reach serious amounts.

"It was not until the completion of the lines of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company in 1873 that it became possible, by means of their lines and those of the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, to connect together in longitude a considerable number of points along the routes of the cables, by a method which far exceeds in simplicity and accuracy all others yet known, namely, the comparison of local times by telegraphic signals.

"The American Navy Department was not slow to take advantage of the facilities thus offered. In the autumn of 1874, Commander Green was commissioned to begin the work, and in the two following winter seasons he succeeded in determining the latitudes and relative longitudes of points in Havana, Santiago, Kingstown (Jamaica), Aspinwall, Panama, San Juan (Puerto Rico), St. Thomas, St. Croix, Antigua, Martinique, Barbados, and Trinidad. The point of observation in Havana was connected telegraphically with a station of the U.S. Coast Survey at Key West, which station had been similarly connected with the Washington Naval Observatory by American astronomers in the winter of 1873–4. And, as the difference of longitude between Washington and Greenwich has been determined on three separate occasions since 1866 by the telegraphic method, it follows that the longitudes of Commander Green's stations are now referable, by a chain of telegraphic time differences, to our fundamental meridian at Greenwich.

"Commander Green's observations in Barbados were taken about the middle of March 1876, and I was so much interested in his method of work, which combined simplicity and rapidity with a high order of accuracy, that I sent an account of it to the Royal Astronomical Society, which was published in their 'Monthly Notices' for May 1876. By the last mail from the United States I received Commander Green's full and final report of his method, observations, and results, published by the U.S. Hydrographic Office at Washington. From these I gather that his determinations are without doubt the most accurate yet made, or likely to be made for many years; and I think it important that your Excellency should be made acquainted with the results, so far at least as they relate to Barbados, and that I should give also a brief outline of the *modus operandi*.

"In order to find the difference of longitude between two stations by telegraphic time-signals, it is necessary in the first place that the *time at each station* should be very accurately determined. Then, if a telegraphic signal be sent by one observer at a certain known instant by *his* clock, and the observer at the other station note the instant of time by *his* clock when the signal reaches him, it is plain that if the clocks be right (or, which is the same thing, if their errors on local time at either station be exactly known), and if the time occupied in the passage of the signal be neglected, the difference in the times as indicated by the two clocks will be

the difference in time between the two stations, or, in other words, the difference of their longitudes.

"The chief sources of errors (otherwise than accidental) affecting determinations of this kind are:—

1. The time occupied in the passage of the signal through the cable and the apparatus at either end.

"2. Constant personal errors of the observers, both in observing the stars for time, and in sending and receiving the time-signals. These errors, called 'personal equations,' differ in different observers; very few are without them.

"The first class of errors is eliminated by sending half the signals from one station and half from the other, so that the time occupied in transmission shall disappear in the mean result. In the case of Barbados-cum-Trinidad (the distance by cable and land lines being 267 miles) this time of passage was just one-third of a second, equivalent to 168 yards in longitude. The second class of errors (which are generally minute) is met by actual determination of the personal equations of the observers, for each class of observations—by various methods, which are too technical for description, and which I only refer to now for the sake of indicating the excessive care that is taken by practical astronomers to eliminate errors from their work.

"The observations for longitude at Barbados, in connexion with Trinidad, were taken on the nights of March 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1876. The observatory had been set up in Rickett's Battery, and connected by a special wire with the telegraph office. From 12 to 18 stars were observed with a transit instrument at each station on each night, for the purpose of determining the local times. About 64 time-signals were sent nightly (192 in all) from Barbados to Trinidad, and 62 (185 in all) from Trinidad to Barbados. From these materials, the difference of longitude was rigidly deduced for each night separately. The second and third nights' results were absolutely identical, to the same *one-hundredth part of a second.* The result of the first night differed from this by 0·07 sec., or about 35 yards.

"The latitudes were found by the method, very generally used by American astronomers, of observing pairs of high stars on the meridian, north and south of the zenith, with the zenith-telescope. Thirteen such pairs were observed here, giving results which in no case differed more than 2″·9 (about 97 yards) from the mean of the whole, while the probable error of the mean is only 11 yards.

"For the final determination, Commander Green gives—

FLAGSTAFF IN RICKETT'S BATTERY, LAT. N. 13° 5′ 42″·50.
LONG. W. 59° 37′ 18″·45.

"By the Admiralty Chart, the adopted position of the English naval observing point in Beckwith's Battery is lat. N. 13° 4′ 53″, long. W. 59° 36′ 18″. The flagstaff in Rickett's Battery is 62″·78 north and 31″·93 west of this point. Hence, for the chart position of the flagstaff, as deduced from Beckwith's Battery, we get, lat. N. 13° 5′ 55″·78, long. W. 59° 36′ 49″·93; and conse-

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quently the American correction to our chart latitude is 13″·28 (446 yards) *subtractive*, while the correction to the longitude is 28″·52 *additive*, or, in time, 1·90 sec., equivalent to about 938 yards. This, as I have said, is probably the best determination that will be made for many years.

"It seems to me to be worthy of your Excellency's consideration whether Barbados, possessing as it does the chief port in the Lesser Antilles, might not fitly take the lead in starting a small establishment for the regular determination of true time for civil, and especially for nautical, purposes. Such an establishment would need only a good transit instrument and astronomical clock, mounted in a small observatory in or close to Bridgetown. In connexion with it, a signal gun, visible from the ships in port, might be fired daily by electricity at the precise instant of local mean noon; and every ship captain would be able by its means to determine the daily *rate* of his standard chronometer, as well as its *error* on mean time here, or (our longitude being now known) its error on mean time at the meridians of Greenwich, Washington, Paris, or other fixed observatories.

"I cannot but think that such an institution, properly conducted, would be of great service to mariners. The initial outlay would not exceed 200*l.*, while 70*l.* or 80*l.* per annum would probably meet the cost of maintenance. If this proposal be considered worth adoption, I could furnish your Excellency with further details, and assist in the purchase of the apparatus; and I should be willing, if I remain long enough in Barbados, to undertake the needful training of an observer in my leisure time.

"I have, &c.

"(Signed) H. S. PALMER, Major, R.E.

"His Excellency Lieut.-Gov. Dundas, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c."

Your Lordship will notice by the above letter that there is a slight error in the Admiralty Chart as regards both the latitude and the longitude of our "naval observing point" in Barbados. The position is now given with much exactness, the readings descending to fractions of a second.

In the concluding paragraphs of his letter, Major Palmer makes an admirable suggestion for the establishment of an inexpensive observatory, the organization of which he expresses his willingness to undertake.

I regret, however, that the Government will be unable to avail itself of his offer, as Major Palmer has since the date of his letter received an appointment in Hong Kong.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 5.

Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS to Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G.

Government House, St. Vincent,
May 1, 1877.

SIR,

THE St. Vincent Blue Book for 1876 has been already transmitted. I have now the honour to send your Excellency my Report upon it.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of St. Vincent collected in 1876 was 28,858*l.*; that of the preceding year was 27,852*l.*

3. The expenditure for 1876 was 27,997*l.* against 29,693*l.* in 1875.

4. The actual expenditure was thus 861*l.* within the revenue. The cash balance in hand at the Treasury on the 1st of January 1877, was 7,386*l.*

5. The financial position of the Colony on the 1st of January 1877 is exhibited in the following statement:—

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
General cash balance from 1876	7,386	1	3	Due to depositors in savings bank	4,339	19	10
In hands of Crown Agents, London	53	5	6	Due to the town of Kingstown (current account)	47	10	8
Advances to be recouped:				Due to Commissioners of Public Lands and Buildings	497	8	10
To sufferers by flood in September 1875	73	10	0	Surplus of assets	10,195	17	10
To the immigration fund	1,158	2	7				
To the town of Kingstown (waterworks account)	6,409	17	10				
	£15,080	17	2		£15,080	17	2

Public Debt.

5. St. Vincent is free from debt. The immigration fund owed the general revenue on the 31st of December 1876, 1,158*l.*, and the town of Kingstown owed it 6,409*l.* for advances for water supply.

Military Expenditure.

7. Under this head 145*l.* were expended in 1876 for the salaries of the fort adjutant and the bandmaster, and for the expenses incidental to the maintenance of the band.

8. The salary of the Lieutenant-Governor (1,300*l.*) is the only sum paid from the Imperial Exchequer in aid of this Government.

Public Works.

9. No new public works were undertaken in 1876. Several of those previously begun were completed. The police barracks in Kingstown, the first stone of which was laid in May 1873, were completed; the cost of this work was 4,754*l.* The building purchased as a police station in Calliaqua in 1875 was fitted for this purpose. The whole cost was 350*l.* The repairs to the wings of the court house were finished, costing 440*l.*; and 333*l.* were expended in repairs to other public buildings.

10. Seventeen hundred and thirty-six pounds were expended on the public roads. This is in excess of the estimate; their bad condition, however, demanded the larger outlay.

11. The new line of roadway, with bridge, at Arnos Vale, is now nearly completed. 979*l.* were spent on this work to the end of 1876.

Legislation.

12. There was no legislation in 1876. The Legislative Assembly, which was not summoned during the year, was finally abolished on the 6th of December, when the Queen's confirmation of the Act to change the constitution was proclaimed.

Executive Council.

13. The death of Mr. Cloke, a member of the Executive Council, occurred in 1876. This vacancy has not been filled up. The Council consists of two official and five un-official members.

Civil Establishment.

14. On the promotion of Mr. Pope Hennessy to the Government of Hong Kong I assumed, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Windward Islands, the administration of the group.

15. I went to Barbados late in November 1876 and returned early in January 1877. Mr. Laborde administered here in my absence.

16. Mr. Osment, the Colonial Engineer, arrived in February and assumed the duties of the office which Mr. McDonnell had filled.

Pensions.

17. No change has taken place as regards pensions since my last Report. These remain at the sum of 327*l.*

Population.

18. Judging by the returns annually compiled by the Registrar-General of births, marriages, and deaths, the population of the Colony is steadily increasing. In the past year the natural increase was 601, and the Registrar says, adding this and the increase in the preceding years to the number shown by the census in April 1871, the population at the end of 1876 would be 39,369.

19. Of course these last-named figures cannot be assumed as accurately representing the population. There is a constant stream of immigration and emigration between this and the neighbouring islands, which would materially affect the calculation.

20. The Registrar-General, however, says on this subject, "the "immigration and emigration of the labouring classes in the "year (1876), as given by the harbour-master, show a gain of "396 to the population. The gain from this source appeared to "be 467 in 1874 and 955 in 1875; but 300 of the latter were "Coolies from India. These figures are not, however, to be "taken as very reliable. They indicate, at least, that the Colony "is not losing population by excess of emigration."

21. The birth rate in 1876 was 47 per thousand, the death rate 31 per thousand.

22. I annex a copy of the Registrar-General's Report and returns.

23. The district medical officers show by their returns that in 1876 upwards of 3,000 children and 300 persons above 60 years of age received medical advice and medicines gratuitously from them. These are irrespective of the hospital cases and out-door patients treated by the colonial surgeon, and noted under the head of "Hospitals."

24. The successful vaccinations performed in the year were 1,255.

Savings Bank.

25. In my Report on the Blue Book for 1875, I said the usefulness of this institution was becoming better known. This remark is borne out by the transactions of last year. The number of depositors increased from 474 to 525, and the amount on deposit at the close of the year from 4,007*l.* to 4,451*l.*

Education.

26. The returns for 1876 give the average number of scholars as 3,241, being 64 less than the average of the previous year. The number of schools receiving State aid was 60, as in the previous year. The total sum expended in support of these schools was 2,396*l.*, being 182*l.* less than in the last year.

27. The share paid by Government was 1,553*l.*, being 167*l.* more than in 1875. The voluntary contributions fell off in 1876 from 594*l.* to 297*l.*, and the school fees from 598*l.* to 545*l.*

28. The advantages of school teaching would appear to be but little appreciated by negro parents, as there are at least some 10,000 children who might attend these schools.

Shipping.

29. Four hundred and eighteen vessels, representing 22,364 tons, were entered at the Custom-house in 1876. Although the number of vessels exceeded by nine those entered in 1875, the tonnage was 2,021 less.

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30. Four hundred and fourteen vessels were cleared outwards, representing 22,349 tons, being a decrease on the last year of 1,362 tons.

Imports and Exports.

31. The increase of the value of articles imported for consumption in 1876 was very small as compared with that of 1875, the numbers being 154,915*l.* against 152,081*l.* The value of imported goods re-exported was 7,108*l.* against 5,974*l.*

32. In 1876 the value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony exported was 175,519*l.* These figures show a decrease from the previous year of 24,925*l.*

33. A tabular comparative statement of the quantities and values of the principal products of the Colony exported during the past three years is subjoined :—

	Year 1874.		Year 1875.		Year 1876.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
		£		£		£
Sugar - -	19,508,384 lbs.	123,724	21,903,728 lbs.	133,606	17,319,232 lbs.	109,804
Rum - -	228,425 galls.	25,380	198,180 galls.	22,017	161,290 galls.	17,920
Molasses - -	79,830 „	2,661	120,240 „	4,008	71,010 „	2,367
Arrowroot - -	2,894,765 lbs.	39,890	2,608,100 lbs.	35,674	2,733,835 lbs.	37,229
Cotton - -	44,576 „	1,592	48,608 „	1,736	60,032 „	2,144
Cocoa - -	9,640 „	200	6,640 „	126	8,800 „	165

Crimes and Prisoners.

34. In 1876 1,525 convictions were recorded. This number is less by 68 than the convictions of 1875. Many of the offences thus punished were of a slight nature.

35. There were 420 committals to gaol. Of these, 26 were on convictions by the superior courts.

36. The prison, irrespective of the salaries of the officers of the establishment, cost in 1876 570*l.*

Hospitals and Asylums.

37. During the year 1876, 464 patients were treated in the Colonial Hospital. Of these, 340 were males and 124 were females.

38. These figures show an increase of 83 patients over the number returned for 1875.

39. The colonial surgeon observes that many of the patients were persons in a better position of life than those hitherto claiming admittance. This is to be attributed to the better management of the institution of late years, which has overcome the prejudice that had existed in the minds of the more decent of the poor class to entering it as patients.

40. Thirty-nine deaths took place during the year. If this number seems large it must be attributed to my having ordered the admission of many persons whose recovery was extremely improbable, and whom the medical officer received with reluctance, regarding the cases as moribund. There is, however, no asylum

for such sufferers, who, friendless and destitute of means, would otherwise have been neglected.

41. Fifteen amputations and operations were successfully performed during the year. One patient only was carried off by typhoid remittent fever, six days after amputation. Chopart's operation had been performed.

42. Four hundred and twenty-two out-door patients received during the year, advice and medicine.

43. The total cost of the hospital to the Government for the year was nearly 1,500*l.*

Lunatic Asylum.

44. No change has taken place in this institution since my last Report. The daily average number of lunatics in 1876 was 12. Of these, five were females. Three deaths occurred.

Meteorological.

45. The rainfall in 1876 was less than that of the preceding year. At the Government Cottage, "the Garden," at the southern end of the Island, a total of 102 inches was registered. In 1875, 115 inches of rain were registered there. In the northern part of the island at "Richmond Vale" 120 inches were recorded as the rainfall in 1876.

46. The temperature during the year varied little from the figures I gave in my Report on the Blue Book of 1875. It ranged generally between 70 and 87 degrees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

His Excellency George C. Strahan, Esq., C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &.

REPORT on the ABSTRACTS of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS in 1876.

The number of children born alive in the year 1876 was 1819, 936 males and 883 females. The number of still-births was 100, 55 males and 45 females.

Exclusive of still-births, the birth-rate for the year was 47 per thousand. In the years 1872–3–4–5, it was respectively 45, 48, 44, and 45 per thousand.

The illegitimate births were 54·8 per cent.; varying in the several districts as follows, Kingstown 54·4, Calliaqua 50·1, Windward 55·6, Leeward 63·2, and Grenadines 50·3 per cent.

There were 1,218 deaths recorded in the year, 599 males and 619 females. In these figures the still-born are not included.

The death-rate was 31 per thousand. In the years 1872–3–4–5 it was respectively 27, 26, 27, and 31 per thousand.

The mortality among infants under one year of age was 23·4 per cent. In the Kingstown district it was 19·4 per cent., in the Calliaqua 23·4, in the Windward 23·5, in the Leeward 27·0, and in the Grenadines 36·0 per cent. Of children under 15 years of age the mortality was 56·4 per cent.

ST. VINCENT.

The natural increase to the population was 601. Adding this, and the increase of preceding years, to the number shown by the Census of 1871, the population at the end of 1876 should have been 39,369.

The immigration and emigration of the labouring classes in the year, as given by the harbour-master, and stated in the annexed table, show a gain of 396 to the population. The gain from this source appeared to be 467 in 1874, and 955 in 1875, but 300 of the latter were Coolies from India. These figures are not, however, to be taken as very reliable. They indicate, at least, that the Colony is not losing population by excess of emigration.

—	Antigua.	Barbados.	Carriacou.	Grenada.	Guadeloupe.	Martinique.	Montserrat.	Nevis.	St. Lucia.	St. Barts.	St. Kitts.	Trinidad.	Total.
Arrivals in St. Vincent from - - -	53	379	226	133	—	104	7	44	64	1	9	219	1,239
Departures from St. Vincent to - -	12	175	137	163	1	21	—	—	54	—	3	277	843

Fever seems to have been more fatal in the past year; and there were more deaths from diseases of the brain and of the stomach. The deaths from diseases of the lungs were not so numerous.

There were 259 marriages celebrated. The ministers of the Church of England performed 53 per cent., (nearly), the Roman Catholic ministers 13 per cent., and the Wesleyan ministers 34 per cent.

The medical officers successfully vaccinated 1,255 persons in the year.

EDWARD LABORDE, Colonial Secretary.
Administering the Government.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 6.

Lieut.-Governor GRAHAM to Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G.

SIR, Government Office, May 7, 1877.

I FORWARD to your Excellency by this mail copies of our Blue Book for 1876, and I enclose a report condensing the substance of what they convey.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CYRIL C. GRAHAM.

His Excellency
Governor George C. Strahan, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

REPORT.

With regard to the revenue I cannot say that I am dissatisfied with it. Without imposing any appreciable further taxation. I have been enabled not only to meet the exigencies of the moment but to find a balance in my hand.

The revenue for the year was made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - -	12,223	3	1
Tonnage - - -	632	14	1
Excise - - -	3,679	19	11
Licenses - - -	2,198	4	0
Fees and fines - -	641	5	1
Post Office - - -	305	19	7
Assessed taxes - -	3,925	13	6
Stamp Act - - -	1,786	17	11
Sale of escheated properties -	213	14	11
Miscellaneous - -	679	16	9
	26,286	8	10
Surplus of 1875 - -	1,928	18	11
	28,215	7	9

The following shows the expenditure for the year :—

	£	s.	d.
Civil - - - -	3,959	7	5
Judicial - - -	3,667	19	5
Ecclesiastical - -	1,692	0	0
Legislative - - -	936	19	4
Education - - -	1,483	15	10
Sanitary and poor relief -	3,801	12	1
Police and gaols - -	3,115	4	8
Roads and works - -	4,387	1	5
Inland post - - -	378	4	9
Telegraph - - -	521	5	7
Loan - - -	1,605	0	0
Ice subsidy - - -	71	5	0
Miscellaneous - -	1,104	2	4
	26,723	17	10
Leaving a surplus to 31 December 1876 of - -	1,491	9	11
	28,215	7	9

Public Debt.

As your Excellency is aware, as I stated in my report last year, our public debt is practically extinguished.

GRENADA.

I have new calls to make, and a loan of 10,000*l.* must be raised to give to the town of Saint George what it most wants,—a continuous supply of water.

In Trinidad they have a magnificent spring and reservoir, which yields an unlimited quantity of water to Port of Spain.

I have despatched Mr. Reid, the principal manager of our roads, on a special mission, that he might observe the admirable arrangements made by Mr. Tanner in Trinidad. When he returns he will report to me with regard to the hints that he has gained, and I trust that within 12 months our town may not only be supplied with excellent water for common use but that hydrants may be established which may enable us to meet accidents in the case of fire.

Finance.

The total of imports in the year ending December 31, 1876, amount to 114,860*l.* 19*s.* 3½*d.*, the exports to 178,584*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, statistics which show great prosperity.

Legislation.

One of the first steps taken by the newly constituted Single Chamber was to pass an address to Her Majesty praying Her Majesty to erect such form of Government as might be deemed most expedient.

The following Acts were passed and assented to :

(1.) An Act to provide for the appointment of two additional Medical Officers for this Government.

(2.) An Act to regulate the practice of midwifery.

(3.) An Act to regulate the sale of medicines and drugs in this Government.

(4.) An Act to encourage the introduction and maintenance of a continuous supply of ice in the town of Saint George.

(5.) An Act to authorise the appointment of two road surveyors.

(6.) An Act to amend the Stamp Act, 1875.

(7.) An Act to authorise the governor to lease the public market places within the Government.

(8.) An Act to amend the Petty Debt Act, 1874, and to make better provision for the punishment of fraudulent debtors.

(9.) An Act to amend an Act entitled An Act to consolidate the laws relating to the establishment and regulation of a registrar's office.

(10.) An Act to amend An Act entitled an Act for procuring returns of certain objects of property.

(11.) An Act to provide for the payment of certain sums of money for the public service for the year 1877.

(12.) An Act to raise moneys to supplement the general revenues of this Government.

(13.) An Act to impose certain duties upon the exportation from this Government of certain goods grown, produced, or

manufactured in Grenada or its dependencies to be applied solely for the purposes of immigration.

The most important of these Acts are Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 13. The appointment of paid and skilled officers to superintend the repair and maintenance of the roads was urgently required, and the officers appointed under No. 5 have superseded the old road commissioners, who were unpiad and irresponsible.

By the provisions of No. 8 imprisonment for debt is virtually abolished, and the punishment of fraudulent debtors secured. By No. 13 the collection of a slight duty for the purposes of immigration, principally on account of back passages of Indian immigrants, is authorised.

Shipping.

Owing to certain circumstances, I cannot report so favourably upon our shipping as I reported last year. It must be remembered that in our return we include the ocean-going ships which visit us. I exclude the steamers periodically, but our own coasting trade is being more and more developed, and steam communication on a small scale has already been productive of useful results.

From a new Act, which has provided a subsidy for a larger steamer, which can visit not only every port in this Island but its dependencies, I anticipate an important gain to us.

Agriculture.

Cocoa, rum, and spices are increasing in value, and the first and the last are always available in the market.

The following is a return of the principal items of produce exported from the Colony during the last three years, with their respective values.

Produce.	1874.		1875.		1876.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Cocoa - -	1,298	66,641	1,400	71,897	1,725	92,600
Cotton - -	96	3,568	127	4,768	122	4,580
	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.	
Oil (Whale) -	8,175	1,022	3,210	401	3,840	480
Rum - -	87,747	6,581	96,365	7,227	85,775	7,505
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Sugar - -	3,780	58,921	4,372	68,142	3,152	58,846
Spices - -	12	1,820	14	2,170	16	2,488

Library.

The public library is supported at the expense of the Government. The works which it possesses were originally chosen by

GRENADA.

Sir William Reid, and I suppose that no small Colony owns so excellent a collection of books as we have. 75*l.* per annum is now voted, and I am glad to tell your Excellency that the library is much used.

At Grenville a smaller library exists, and as that town is only of second importance to Saint George, we may be glad tha such opportunities are afforded to those who care to read.

Medical.

Since I had the honour of addressing a report to your Excellency's predecessor, I have the great satisfaction of thanking the Secretary of State for the excellent men whom he has taken the trouble to find for us.

We were in great dearth in this respect, and their timely arrival relieved me from great anxiety.

A further grant, raising the salaries of these officers to 300*l.* a year, may tempt many men of experience to visit us.

Population.

In 1875 we counted 40,412; we now estimate our population at 40,867, equal to 307 to the square mile.

The rate of births against deaths was, at the end of 1876, 4·66 versus 3·40 in 1875. There were 1,885 baptisms registered, being 96 more than in the previous year.

Health.

Our principal diseases are those which affect one, the stomach and the liver; two, the lungs. Fever, though no one is exempt from it, debilitates the system, but rarely takes life.

The greatest mortality we have to record is amongst children under four years of age. This is owing to the neglect of their parents, but when they pass that period they seem to be free from the troubles which assail them in their infancy.

Hospitals.

We have granted a further sum to the Colony hospital, which could hardly support itself, but I take this occasion to commend the care and the vigilance bestowed by Dr. Orgias upon the inmates.

Gaol.

Since the Act was passed abolishing imprisonment for petty debt, our gaol has naturally been much relieved, and I can report favourably upon its administration under the auspices of Mr. Sharpe. Those amongst the prisoners who are sick are removed immediately to the hospital, but few cases have occurred to disturb them during the last year.

Lunatics.

With the help of Dr. Massiah, I hope to increase the comfort of these poor people, but it must be remembered that many are confined there provisionally, who were only detained not on the ground of real lunacy, but on account of their own indiscretions. In this climate a man may take an overdose of rum and become so violent that he must be incarcerated, and under the regular system observed in the asylum he soon recovers his senses, and can be liberated with an admonition.

ANTIGUA.

No. 7.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 26, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for the past year, with a report from Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ANTIGUA for the year 1876.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue collected was 32,078*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*, against 36,341*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.* in 1875, showing a decrease of 4,623*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, nearly the whole of which occurred under the heads of Customs and Excise.

The expenditure, including a payment of 600*l.* to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, a charge which appears for the first time in the accounts of the Presidency, was 33,356*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.*, against 34,156*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* in 1875, showing a further reduction of 800*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.* in the cost of government.

The excess of expenditure over revenue was 1,278*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* This deficit, which was occasioned by the falling off in the import duty, was defrayed from the balance in hand from the previous year.

ANTIGUA. The cash balance in hand on the 31st December was 2,494*l.* 10*s.*. 2*d.*, consisting of the following items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General revenue - -	1,041	7	11
Special Funds—			
Public cemetery - -	176	0	7
Police reward fund - -	271	11	10
Island of Barbuda - -	698	17	0
Escheated estates - -	219	16	4
Unrepresented estates - -	9	16	5
Deposit, Provost Marshal -	77	0	1

Public Debt.

The Public Debt stands as follows:—	£
Waterworks debentures - -	32,500
Local loan debentures - -	10,100
Savings bank debentures - -	8,890
Immigration loan - - -	7,020
	58,510
Less amount invested to 31st December 1876 in Waterworks Loan Sinking Fund - - -	14,573
Public Debt on 31st December 1876	43,937

Public Buildings.

The court house and the shed at the public cemetery have been thoroughly repaired, and minor repairs were made to other public buildings.

The work of repairing the public treasury and library was postponed until the commencement of 1877.

Many of the other public buildings are now requiring attention, among them may be mentioned the Government House, the Colonial Secretary's office, the gaol, and the lunatic asylum.

Legislation.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands held its annual session at Antigua in the month of February, and passed 29 Acts.

Eleven Acts were passed by the Island Council. Eight relate to the revenue. The others are to demonetize silver dollars, to commute the allowance made to the rector of St. George's for house rent, and to relieve the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from compulsory pilotage.

Population.

The total number of births was 1,622. Of these, 1,434 were born alive, and 188 were still-born. The birth rate was at the rate of 46·13 per 1,000. The number of illegitimate births was 1,109, or 68·38 per cent. of the total births registered.

The deaths, inclusive of the still-births which are also registered as deaths, numbered 1,334.

The death rate was 37·94 per 1,000.

Savings Bank.

The following statement shows the position of this Institution on 31st December 1876.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Due to depositors - -	-		-	11,606	17	5
Invested in local treasury -	8,890	16	1			
Deposits in colonial bank -	2,500	0	0			
Cash balance - -	216	1	4			
				11,606	17	5

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in 1876 was 133,502*l.*, against 180,363*l.* in 1875. The value of exports was 136,393*l.*, against 249,677*l.* The quantity of sugar shipped in 1876 was 8,327 hhds., valued at 14*l.* per hhd.; in 1875, 14,667 hhds. were shipped, valued at 13*l.* 10*s.* per hhd.

Shipping.

The following is a comparative statement of the shipping for the years 1875 and 1876.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1875	403	30,531	399	30,046
1876	342	23,004	351	22,363

Education.

The Leeward Islands Education Act of 1874 is undoubtedly one of the most important and valuable measures that has yet been enacted by the Federal Legislature. The system established under it has proved a decided success, and it is now working to the entire satisfaction of the managers of denominational and other schools.

Criminal Statistics.

The criminal statistics are satisfactory to the extent that they do not present any material increase of offences as compared with

ANTIGUA.

the previous year, and a considerable diminution of offences as compared with former years.

Daily average of prisoners—

1874 - - -	101
1875 - - -	66
1876 - - -	77

exclusive of prisoners from the other Presidencies.

Commitments.

1874 - - -	1,475
1875 - - -	843
1876 - - -	909

Commitments by Superior Courts.

1874 - - - -	48
1875 - - - -	29
1876 - - - -	28

Summary Convictions.

1874 - - -	4,337
1875 - - -	2,635
1876 - - -	2,432

Recommitments.

1874 - - - -	639
1875 - - - -	475
1876 - - - -	515

General.

The prospects for 1877 are encouraging, the crop will be an average one, and some improvement has been manifested in the condition of the people generally. Owing to the heavy rains in the early part of last year, agricultural operations were extended, and there was a good demand for labour. The island provisions were cheap, and there was an abundant supply of water. Emigration to Trinidad, Guadeloupe, and Puerto Rico still, however, continues.

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
President of Antigua.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 8.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD, November 9, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1876, with a report thereon from President Porter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

President PORTER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Montserrat, November 3, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency Governor Berkeley the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1876, accompanied by my report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
To his Honour the Colonial Secretary President.
of the Leeward Islands.

Finance.

—	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1874 - -	4,580	2	4	4,968	18	4
1875 - -	5,077	0	7	5,265	9	1
1876 - -	5,181	2	6	4,773	11	8

Imperial Post Office receipts and remittances deducted:—

	£
Average revenue - - -	4,946
Average expenditure - - -	5,002

At the close of my last report, I stated that the finances of this Presidency were in a satisfactory state. They remain in the same condition.

Trade.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1874 - -	23,937 1 7	33,079 5 0
1875 - -	26,678 0 0	33,544 15 0
1876 - -	23,989 0 0	28,356 13 6

These returns show a decline in commercial activity, but the business of one year is not a sufficient reason for either elation or despondency.

Agriculture.

Owing to unfavourable seasons the sugar crop of 1876 was a short one. A considerable advance in prices obtained did much to compensate for the falling off in quantity.

In my report on the Blue Book of 1874 I sketched in detail the character of the agriculture of this Island and the systems on which it is conducted. The existence of small holdings in combination with agricultural labour for daily wages or payment on the task system, tends, I am of opinion, to the health, happiness, and general prosperity of the rural population, although it may render hired labour somewhat more difficult to organize and manage than is the case in Antigua and St. Kitts, where the peasant has not the advantages he has here.

Education.

On this subject in my report on the 1875 Blue Book, alluding to the backward state of the schools in this Island, and to the improvement I anticipated from the operation of the Leeward Islands Elementary Schools Act of 1874, I stated that I had no doubt that the inspector's examinations in 1876 would show an improvement.

This is what he says of the Montserrat schools. "In 1875 out "of 12 schools not one passed, and five were struck off the list; "there was nothing whatever to recommend them for exceptional "aid, whilst in 1876 out of eight schools, four obtained a class, "and the rest were recommended for exceptional aid as doing "useful work and showing hopeful signs for the future."

General Remarks.

The health of the Island continues to be good. The Registrar's annual returns exhibit the usual large excess of births over deaths.

The material prosperity of the community is as great as can be fairly expected, considering the resources of this small Dependency of the Crown. There will always be ebb and flow in the value of the produce of the soil, and seasons will ever continue to vary.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 9.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 21, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1876, together with a report thereon from President Hickson.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY, Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

President HICKSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Tortola, May 9, 1877.

SIR,

IN obedience to instructions, I have the honour to forward Blue Book for the year 1876 with my report.

2. The amount collected for the last two years under the several heads are as follows:—

Receipts in	1875. £	s.	d.	1876. £	s.	d.
Customs	1,045	7	1¾	927	2	9½
Licenses	164	14	6	225	4	4
Taxes	228	14	5	310	19	10
Post office	37	4	7	57	5	1
Fines and penalties	84	19	2	44	17	0
Registering deed and fees of office	50	13	4	65	17	9
Road commutations	1	19	0	0	4	0
Miscellaneous	68	8	9	417	18	3
Salt pond rent	20	0	0	—		
Balance for 1874 to 1875	72	15	1¼	81	12	8
	1,774	16	0	2,131	1	8½

3. The increase of 60*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* on licenses were chiefly from new boats having been built, and the wrecking licenses having been paid up. The increase of 348*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* in miscellaneous receipts arose from duties, &c. on wrecked goods.

4. The expenditure for the year 1876 was 2,039*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.*, against 1,694*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for 1875, showing a difference of 344*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.* increase.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Legislation.

5. During the year 1876 four Ordinances passed the Legislative Council.

No. 1. An Ordinance to apply the sum of 1,699*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* for Colonial estimate for 1876.

No. 2. An Ordinance to facilitate the exportation of salt from the Virgin Islands.

No. 3. An Ordinance to demonetise silver dollars.

No. 4. An Ordinance to compel owners and keepers of dogs to take out license.

The usual proclamations for the hurricane season were issued also Proclamation of Treaty of Extradition between Her Majesty and the King of the Belgians.

Births.

District.	Year.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
A. - -	1876	14	10	2	1
B. - -	,,	7	12	1	—
C. - -	,,	7	5	4	4
D. - -	,,	25	11	22	7
E. - -	,,	7	3	3	5
F. - -	,,	4	5	1	3
		64	46	33	20

Deaths during the Year 1876.

Under 1 Year.		From 1 to 10 Years.		From 11 to 20 Years.		From 21 to 31 Years.		From 31 to 40 Years.		From 41 to 50 Years.		From 51 to 60 Years.		From 61 to 70 Years.		Upwards of 70 Years.		Total.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
20	18	6	9	—	2	12	11	1	8	6	2	2	3	6	4	7	11	60	68

Deaths during the Year 1876.

Legitimate.										Illegitimate.									
Males.					Females.					Males.					Females.				
Under 1 Year.	From 1 to 2 Years.	2 to 3 Years.	3 to 4 Years.	4 to 5 Years.	Under 1 Year.	From 1 to 2 Years.	2 to 3 Years.	3 to 4 Years.	4 to 5 Years.	Under 1 Year.	From 1 to 2 Years.	2 to 3 Years.	3 to 4 Years.	4 to 5 Years.	Under 1 Year.	From 1 to 2 Years.	2 to 3 Years.	3 to 4 Years.	4 to 5 Years.
7	1	1	2	1	5	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	2	3	3	2

Causes of Deaths during the Year 1876.

Fever - - - - -	18
Inflammation - - - -	4
Asthma - - - -	5
Childbirth - - - -	1
Consumption - - - -	36
Convulsions - - - -	8
Dentition - - - -	2
Drowning - - - -	1
Dysentery - - -	12
Dropsy - - - - -	4
Liver complaint - - -	4
Natural decay - - - -	18
Stillborn - - - -	6
Stricture - - - -	1
Ulcers - - - -	8
	128

6. According to the census taken in April 1871 the Virgin Islands contained a population of 6,651. The parish of St. George comprises the whole of the Virgin Islands, and is presided over by the Rev. Hugh Semper, who receives a salary of 25*l.* as chaplain of the gaol and poorhouse; there is a small glebe of no value. The parish church at Road Town is capable of accommodating 300 persons, the number of persons generally attending is about 100. St. Philip's chapel at Kingstown (the African settlement) can accommodate 200 persons: St. Paul's at Sea Cow Bay is out of repair. The chapel at Virgin Gorda will accommodate about 200 persons. The Methodists have seven places of worship in the Virgin Islands. The chapel at Road Town is generally attended by about 600 persons. East End chapel is attended by 150; there is a chapel at West End, one at Anegada, one at Virgin Gorda, one at Peter Island, and one at Lost Van Dykes.

7. There are six schools in connexion with the Church of England and seven with the Methodists, as shown below:—

—	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.		Total.
		Males.	Females.	
Church of England - -	6	145	150	295
Methodists - - -	7	196	107	203

The schools are supported by contributions from the Christian Faith Society, the Ladies Society for promoting Education in the West Indies, the sum of 80*l.* is allowed from the Colonial Government for educational purposes and is divided between the

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Church and the Wesleyan schools, and the pay of the teachers in the Church schools beyond the salary stated depends on the average number of scholars they return quarterly.

8. The Wesleyan schools are supported by school fees, part of Colonial grant, voluntary contributions, and 27*l.* 10*s.* granted by the Parent Society, London.

9. The Sunday schools are supported and conducted by unpaid agents, any expenses incurred are met by voluntary contributions. There are three Sunday schools connected with the Church, and eight belonging to the Wesleyans; the teachers are members of the different churches.

10. The total value of imports from British Colonies for the year 1876 was 15*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, and the exports 79*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

11. The imports from foreign countries, 2,658*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, and the exports, 4,694*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

12. The number of vessels and boats entering the two ports of the Virgin Islands during the year were 1,343, with a tonnage of 4,377; and the number clearing 1,081, with a tonnage of 3,604.

13. The crops of the Islands were materially injured by a severe gale of wind which took place on the 11th October, consequently the sugar crops will be very considerably reduced. Subsequent weather recovered the ground provisions so that no very great privation was caused.

14. The number of commitments to the common gaol for the year 1876 were 46 males and females.

15. The number of admissions to the hospital during the year were 15, the daily average on the sick list two

16. The number of offences committed during the year, 211; 35 against the person, 36 against property, and 140 other offences.

17. Some inconvenience is felt in the Presidency from the present state of the money market at St. Thomas, our chief trade being with the Danish Island of St. Thomas. All our exports are paid for in American silver, and as there is little or no English money at present in the Virgin Islands, the inhabitants have to submit to a heavy discount in making their payments into the Treasury here.

18. The Virgin Islands are free from all contagious diseases, and on the whole generally healthy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. M. HICKSON,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary. President.

DOMINICA.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Leward Islands, Antigua,
May 25, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1876, together with President Eldridge's report thereon. I also enclose a letter from the Auditor-General, covering a detailed statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Presidency from 1873 to 1876.

The exceptionally high expenditure of 1875 and 1876 was in consequence of the expenditure of 5,028*l.* 5*s.* 1½*d.* for the construction of the Roseau Waterworks in the former year, and of 438*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* for the extension of the works in the latter year, and a further additional expenditure of 775*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* for the hospital treatment of persons suffering under the disease known as yaws. The ordinary expenditure of 1876, exclusive of the above-mentioned special outlay, was not in excess of that incurred in the years 1872, 1873, and 1874. The increase in the cost of government since 1871 is mainly due to the creation of the following appointments for purely local purposes:—

	£
2 additional medical officers - -	440
2 „ magistrates - -	500
2 road overseers - -	250
1 revenue officer at Portsmouth -	100
	£1,290

A new charge, namely, for the subsidy of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, appears for the first time in the public accounts of Dominica for 1876, and the interest on the loan raised for the construction of the Roseau Waterworks, amounting to 300*l.* a year, is also a new charge.

Reductions in the cost of the civil establishment have been effected since 1871 by the combination of the offices of registrar and provost marshal, by a re-arrangement of the salaries of the officers of the Treasury Department, and in a few minor matters. A further reduction is contemplated on the abolition of one of the offices of district magistrate.

A reference to Mr. Eldridge's Blue Book Report for 1874 shows that the new form of Government has been attended with only a nominal increase of the expenditure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

DOMINICA.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the year 1876.

Financial.

The financial position of the Presidency may be thus summarised:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand on 1st January							700	9	0
Receipts:									
Ordinary				16,399	13	1½			
Extraordinary:									
Yaws tax	1,394	13	1						
Crown land fund	210	17	2½						
Savings bank	77	10	9						
Administrator of unrepresented estates	22	6	11½						
Police reward fund	4	0	0						
				1,709	8	0			
							18,109	1	1½
							£18,809	10	1½
Expenditure:									
Ordinary				17,076	19	6			
Extraordinary:									
Yaws, construction and support of hospitals	775	0	3						
Crown land fund	237	16	2						
Savings bank	52	5	3						
Unrepresented estates	82	7	2						
Police reward fund	15	17	0						
Waterworks construction	549	14	7½						
				1,713	0	5½			
							18,789	19	11½
Balance in hand, 31st December							19	10	2
							£18,809	10	1½

The year closed with the following balances to its debit:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yaws fund -	-		-	619	12	10			
Other special funds	-		-	237	4	4			
Arrears - -	278	12	6						
Less balance in hand	19	10	2						
				259	2	4			
							£1,119	15	6

The loan for the construction of the waterworks raised in 1875 is spread over a period of 25 years, and as some 200*l.* or 300*l.* in excess of the advances already made (462*l.*) during the year 1876 from the general revenue is required to complete this work, it is suggested that a further loan should be raised and the advance recouped to the general revenue.

The revenue and expenditure since 1871 have been as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1871 - -	15,440	16,071
1872 - -	17,310	17,162
1873 - -	16,424	17,544
1874 - -	15,022	17,456
1875 - -	21,682	21,793
1876 - -	17,794	18,402

The following comparative tables of revenue and expenditure give the figures under the principal heads of service:—

Revenue.

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Import duty - - - -	6,430	7,163	6,505	5,813	6,678	6,709
Tonnage and harbour dues - -	718	680	633	644	819	689
Export duty - - - -	1,226	1,146	1,257	1,225	1,478	1,289
Excise duty - - - -	2,587	3,106	2,717	2,533	2,849	2,469
Stamp duty - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	207
Licenses - - - -	1,121	1,411	1,319	1,054	1,201	1,167
Fees, fines, and forfeitures - -	682	1,082	956	1,022	1,184	1,093
Rents - - - - -	131	146	107	94	81	74
House, income, and assessed taxes -	694	737	684	704	688	787
Road tax - - - -	1,817	1,724	1,492	1,577	1,693	1,757
Waterworks - - - -	—	—	—	—	5,000	117
Extraordinary:						
Yaws - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	1,395

Expenditure.

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil establishment - - -	1,983	2,234	2,480	2,228	2,762	3,015
Administration of justice - -	2,334	2,281	2,245	2,722	2,815	3,097
Revenue department - - -	1,436	1,591	1,632	1,519	1,501	1,522
Police department - - -	1,289	1,307	1,333	1,247	1,356	1,369
Gaol - - - - -	550	553	571	624	630	824
Education - - - -	769	740	708	635	673	785
Poor house, asylum, and infirmary -	1,500	1,557	1,545	1,951	2,024	1,778
Works and buildings - - -	946	1,721	989	1,652	5,371	971
Roads and bridges - - -	1,735	2,227	2,388	1,574	1,089	1,181
Lights and signals - - -	103	126	138	156	159	195
Board of health - - -	461	914	159	153	59	31
Printing and stationery - -	434	384	272	225	256	315
Pensions and annuities - -	97	119	400	373	349	326
Hurricane and waterworks loans -	817	817	804	804	804	959
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,577	1,580	1,951	1,501	1,170	1,023
Telegraph - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	200
Extraordinary :						
Yaws - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	775

Public Debt.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hurricane loan (payable in four years) -	3,210	6	8
Waterworks construction loan (payable in 25 years) - - - -	5,000	0	0

The following tables exhibit the principal imports and exports from 1871 to 1876:—

Imports

Year.	Imported from—			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	23,357	33,136	4,888	600
1872 - -	22,257	39,976	6,651	—
1873 - -	18,663	37,307	6,582	—
1874 - -	16,926	33,211	6,577	—
1875 - -	17,245	37,217	7,848	—
1876 - -	17,240	36,175	7,459	44

Exports.

Year.	Exported to			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	49,940	2,424	1,131	1,463
1872 - -	56,606	3,945	1,034	259
1873 - -	54,290	4,001	3,591	136
1874 - -	60,004	5,460	2,256	—
1875 - -	58,561	5,946	4,136	2,978
1876 - -	66,127	6,233	4,668	—

Principal Articles exported for the past Six Years.

Year.	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.		Coffee.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
1871	66,219	46,356	94,015	1,921	40,615	2,545	15,734	379
1872	61,418	51,558	105,282	3,476	24,630	1,543	12,466	337
1873	69,300	51,927	95,613	2,081	16,282	1,140	13,319	403
1874	65,903	54,727	70,849	2,312	32,498	2,280	12,046	395
1875	74,446	56,105	88,140	4,797	17,041	1,443	10,990	328
1876	61,734	61,474	98,449	3,421	18,912	1,512	28,240	1,015

Year.	Cocoa.		Farine Manioc.		Lime Juice.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
		£		£		£
1871 -	203,433	2,319	3	1	3,593	170
1872 -	204,773	2,546	246	63	5,932	691
1873 -	186,688	2,216	741	180	7,317	738
1874 -	189,782	2,164	147½	34	12,462	1,601
1875 -	200,113	2,661	870	131	8,400	1,824
1876 -	336,151	4,223	629	120	4,859	1,834

Year.	Tamarinds.		Logwood.		Firewood.	
	Packages.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cords.	Value.
		£		£		£
1871 -	7	10	19	23	670	373
1872 -	131	55	20	33	853	453
1873 -	260	173	8	14	1,139	592
1874 -	251	252	105	165	1,474	743
1875 -	235	188	153	250	1,520	794
1876 -	214	148	82	80	1,442	732

Shipping.

Year.	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1871 -	311	12,748	1,436	319	12,491	1,472
1872 -	479	9,581	1,625	492	9,151	1,643
1873 -	419	9,242	1,582	419	9,459	1,612
1874 -	361	9,549	1,407	357	9,626	1,421
1875 -	529	12,657	2,009	503	12,091	1,923
1876 -	435	13,250	1,957	428	13,201	1,958

Tonnage.

1876.	Entered.	Cleared.
British - - -	9,802	9,797
French - - -	847	846
American - -	2,428	2,423
Danish - - -	32	7
Swedish - - -	42	42
Dutch - - -	70	57
Spanish - - -	29	29
Total - -	13,250	13,201

Public Works.

No works of importance were constructed. The principal outlay was incurred upon the various school houses.

Legislation.

No Acts of importance were passed.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. Henry Pilkington, M.R.C.S.E., was appointed medical officer to No. 4 District.

Population.

The registrar general returns 730 births against 928 registered in 1875, and 456 deaths against 468 in the same year, showing a decrease in births of 198, and in deaths of 12. He attributes the falling off in the record of births to non-registration and the imperfect machinery for the collection of these valuable and interesting statistics. He places the entire population at 28,966. His short tenure of office had prevented his making any extended comparative statement or searching former records with the view of arriving at more definite reasons as to the apparent lowering of the birth rate.

Savings Bank.

The advantages of this institution are beginning to be appreciated, and deposits are more numerous than in the previous year.

Education.

The inspector general reports as follows:—

"There has been a great improvement in the schools of this Presidency during the past year. This progress is all the more manifest owing to the very low state of education in former years. There is still, however, very much room for further improvement, and I am happy to be able to state that signs are not wanting that efforts are being made in every direction to attain this desirable object. For example—

"1. In 1875 in 23 schools there were 600 children in daily attendance, whilst in 1876 in 21 schools there were 894 children in daily attendance, being an increase of no less than 49 per cent."

"2. In 1875 out of 23 schools only eight passed, whilst in 1876 out of 21 schools 10 obtained a class."

"3. During the past year three denominational schools, under the careful supervision of a Roman Catholic, an Anglican, and a Wesleyan manager respectively, have been placed on the Government list, one of which obtained a third class. Two others have applied to be examined during the ensuing year. This gives me some satisfaction since the Government schools not being under constant supervision have not been more successful in Dominica than in some other West Indian Colonies."

General Remarks.

The increased attention that has within the last two or three years been paid to the re-establishment of coffee and the extended cultivation of cocoa within the Presidency is plainly visible from the marked increase in the exports of the year. Much, if not all, of this interest may be attributed to the visit in 1875 and subsequent able report of Mr. Prestoe, the Government botanist of Trinidad, whose testimony leads to the conclusion that the ravages of the "blight" can in a great measure be overcome by improved culture.

The formation of a company of limited liability for the cultivation of coffee and cocoa would prove a valuable investment, while the introduction of skilled labour in the culture of these products would tend materially to cultivate the native, and, by occular demonstration, prove to him that science and improved agriculture would do more than the laissez faire system of the present day.

Through the kind assistance of the Honourable R. H. Meade Under Secretary of State, I was enabled, during a recent visit to England, to obtain a few plants of the Liberian coffee, which are being distributed throughout the Island, and it is a matter worthy

DOMINICA.

of remark that on the coffee plantation of the Honourable Doctor Imray at St. Aromant this species of coffee, although surrounded by native coffee more or less suffering from the coffee-insect, seems impregnable to its attacks.

The following statement of exports of coffee and cocoa will be interesting:—

Coffee.

1833	1,612,528	1855	24,243
1834	957,443	1856	44,830
1835	1,026,276	1857	25,228
1836	186,426	1858	9,288
1837	386,315	1859	24,349
1838	43,079	1860	18,056
1839	192,303	1861	19,940
1840	371,670	1862	12,034
1841	98,729	1863	20,508
1842	191,632	1864	20,566
1843	?	1865	31,077
1844	123,088	1866	9,888
1845	95,424	1867	23,913
1846	112,000	1868	9,877
1847	93,833	1869	15,214
1848	161,343	1870	10,603
1849	48,416	1871	15,734
1850	65,899	1872	12,466
1851	59,440	1873	13,319
1852	69,126	1874	12,046
1853	60,512	1875	10,990
1854	14,382	1876	28,240

Cocoa.

1838	2,354	1858	124,925
1839	7,470	1859	52,751
1840	7,830	1860	96,489
1841	4,171	1861	113,460
1842	19,264	1862	181,348
1843	?	1863	101,646
1844	11,648	1864	135,695
1845	24,752	1865	148,120
1846	15,988	1866	154,206
1847	29,473	1867	189,224
1848	37,221	1868	171,980
1849	27,589	1869	225,922
1850	29,475	1870	135,439
1851	34,315	1871	202,433
1852	70,283	1872	204,773
1853	90,265	1873	186,688
1854	53,492	1874	189,782
1855	57,327	1875	200,113
1856	27,801	1876	336,151
1857	64,626		

Lime juice continues to attract attention, and, although not realising the excessive prices of past years, yet the present rate is amply remunerating.

The increased price of sugar has caused considerable acreage of land to be put under cultivation.

The revenue of the Presidency has not fallen off, and is ample for all ordinary wants. No new sources of revenue except the yaws tax came into operation this year.

The yaws disease is very rife amongst the people, and the arrangements made under the Yaws Act have not as yet proved equal to grapple with the disease, but it is believed that as soon as hospital accommodation can be provided, and the afflicted brought under regular and judicious treatment, good results will be attained, quite commensurate with the heavy taxation of 10 per centum on almost all the sources of revenue.

The health of the Island in the fall of the year is said to have been bad, and in the town of Roseau it is thought that the recently introduced water supply had something to do with its unhealthiness, but even here the opinions offered are conflicting. There is no doubt that the water delivered from the waterworks is not as pure as when taken from the Riviere Douce, but as this river is proverbially the best in the Island, measures will doubtless be perfected to ensure the inhabitants of the town an ample supply of pure and wholesome water. The fall of the year was unusually dry.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

SIR, Auditor-General's Office, May 26, 1877.

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, requesting me to furnish a report on the enclosed letter of the President of Dominica, especially as to the apparent increase of the cost of the civil establishment;

I have the honour to enclose a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the years 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876. This statement is made up from the balance sheets of the Dominica Treasury Ledger for the several years. I append a memorandum showing how the amounts were arrived at.

I also enclose a detailed statement of the expenditure under each head of service for the several years except 1872, for which year I have not here the necessary accounts.

For more ready comparison I have arranged the heads of service in the same order as in the President's letter.

These returns show that though the cost of the civil and judicial establishments has increased, owing principally to the increase of the President's salary, the addition of an extra revenue officer, and the large addition to the magistracy and to the medical staff,

DOMINICA. yet there is but little variation in the total expenditure of the several years.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. BURNS,
Auditor-General.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of DOMINICA from 1872 to 1876.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1872 - -	17,237 8 3	17,654 14 10
1873 - -	16,258 7 2	17,115 19 3½
1874 - -	15,016 19 9	17,704 19 11½
1875 - -	21,723 7 6	21,052 16 11½
1876 - -	17,642 5 9½	18,256 8 7½
	87,878 8 5½	91,784 19 8

STATEMENT showing how the above Figures were arrived at.

Year 1872.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue as per balance sheet - -		15,490 17 2½
Road tax - - - - -		1,724 0 0
Taxes of 1872 received in 1873 -		23 1 0½
Expenditure as per balance sheet - - -	14,871 1 10½	
Roads - - -	2,227 0 0	
Expenditure of 1872 paid in 1873 - - -	556 12 11½	
	17,654 14 10	17,237 8 3

Year 1873.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue as per balance sheet - -		14,257 5 5
Road tax - - - - -		1,492 5 7
Sales of Government property - -		471 8 1½
Taxes of 1873 received in 1874 - -		37 8 0½
Expenditure as per balance sheet - - -	14,558 8 2	
Expenditure, engineer -	175 0 0	
„ roads - -	1,957 14 9	
„ registration -	154 0 0	
„ of 1873 paid in 1874 -	270 16 4½	
	17,115 19 3½	16,258 7 2

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Year 1874.						
Revenue as per balance sheet - -				14,968	10	2½
Taxes of 1874 received in 1875 - -				48	9	6½
Expenditure as per balance sheet - - -	16,929	15	0½			
Expenditure of 1874 paid in 1875 - - -	775	4	11			
	17,704	19	11½	15,016	19	9
Year 1875.						
Revenue as per balance sheet - -				16,682	19	4½
Taxes of 1875 received in 1876 - -				39	8	1½
Loan raised for waterworks - - -				5,000	0	0
Expenditure as per balance sheet - - -	15,990	4	8			
Expenditure of 1875 paid in 1876 - - -	34	7	2			
Expenditure on account of waterworks - -	5,028	5	1½			
	21,052	16	11½	21,723	7	6
Year 1876.						
Revenue as per balance sheet - -				17,643	6	9½
Expenditure as per balance sheet - - -	17,817	12	6½			
Expenditure on account of waterworks - -	438	16	1			
	18,256	8	7½	17,643	6	9½

DOMINICA.

DETAILED STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE of DOMINICA from 1873 to 1876.

—	1873.			1874.			1875.			1876.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Civil Establishment:												
President - -	752	15	11½	820	0	0	820	0	0	820	0	0
Federal Government -	300	0	0	300	0	0	300	0	0	300	0	0
Postmaster - -	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0
Legislative - -	355	0	0	130	0	0	130	0	0	130	0	0
Do. Federal -	16	5	1½	12	0	4	3	15	0	68	13	4
Engineer -	350	0	0	350	0	0	350	0	0	350	0	0
Roads - - -	—			191	16	7	310	0	0	303	3	4
Medical - -	350	0	0	200	0	0	747	10	9	943	4	11
The Judicial Establishment:												
Federal - -	150	0	0	770	8	4	834	0	0	881	5	0
Chief Justice - -	600	0	0	25	0	0	—			—		
Attorney-General -	200	0	0	16	13	4	—			—		
Registrar and Marshal	610	0	0	594	4	2	433	6	8	646	8	4½
Interpreter - -	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0
Magistrates - -	768	15	0	1,096	2	11	1,494	8	4	1,520	0	0
Coroner - -	162	10	0	41	15	4	—			—		
Administration of Justice, exclusive of establishment -	247	4	7½	244	8	4½	141	11	4	138	6	1
Treasury - -	1,631	17	0½	1,547	6	9	1,501	2	2½	1,521	17	5
Police - - -	1,334	19	11	1,357	2	8½	1,192	11	7½	1,218	13	2
Federal - -	—			89	6	6	163	18	11	150	5	6
Gaol - - -	571	0	9½	671	1	5½	630	9	7½	824	10	1½
Education - -	708	9	6	647	17	4	551	15	5	680	12	7½
Federal - -	—			—			120	19	4	104	16	8
Hospitals, &c. - -	1,544	13	6	2,221	0	7	2,023	10	8½	2,552	16	6½
Works and buildings -	988	17	3	1,656	16	11	343	2	3½	421	8	9
Do. for waterworks	—			—			5,028	5	1½	438	16	1
Roads and bridges -	2,144	6	3	1,618	19	5	1,089	7	2½	1,180	13	10
Lights and signals -	137	13	4½	160	5	1	159	5	7½	194	10	5
Board of Health -	58	14	1½	154	0	3½	59	5	2	31	7	3
Printing and stationery -	332	5	5½	230	5	11½	255	12	1	262	18	9
Federal - -	65	4	0	32	14	2	21	11	1	52	10	0
Pensions - -	400	1	1	372	15	0	349	9	9½	325	14	6
Interest and repayment of loans - -	804	0	0	804	0	0	1,023	16	8	1,172	4	3
Telegraph - -	—			—			—			200	0	0
Miscellaneous - -	406	15	3½	824	10	8	499	19	0	366	5	9
Public garden -	230	0	0				25	0	0			
Federal - -	26	8	10½	23	11	3	14	14	7	14	14	3
Market - -	25	0	0	27	10	0	40	0	0	40	0	0
Registration - -	154	0	0	63	8	4	—			—		
Drawback - -	246	15	11½	93	12	10½	50	16	1	9	17	6
Inland post - -	—			—			—			66	13	2
Cemetery - -	—			—			19	19	8	15	1	0
Rents - - -	—			97	18	0	110	19	8	122	0	6
Exchange - -	17	5	3½	17	17	5	25	2	3	36	19	7
Post Office - -	—			15	10	0	—			—		
Arrears paid in following year - - -	270	16	4½	—			—			—		
Do. Federal expenses	4	4	6	34	19	1	3	3	6½	—		
Error in printed balance sheet - - -	—			0	0	9	—			—		
Total - -	17,115	19	3½	17,704	19	11	21,018	9	9	18,256	8	7

GAMBIA.

No. 11.

Administrator GOULDSBURY to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

SIR, Government House, July 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Blue Book for the year 1876, together with a report thereon by Mr. Berkeley, the Collector of Customs, which he made at my request.

I have abstained from making any remarks on the Blue Book myself, as I would be only travelling over the same ground traversed by Mr. Berkeley, and without being possessed of his special knowledge of the subjects touched on, as I did not assume the administration of this Settlement until March of the current year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. SKIPTON GOULDSBURY,

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Administrator.

&c. &c. &c.

Sierra Leone.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for the Year 1876.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
The amount received by the Treasurer during the year 1876 was - - - -				19,786	12	0
The following items, however, cannot be considered revenue, and must be deducted:—						
Over-payments recovered and refunds - -	411	8	8			
Cash borrowed - -	1,559	7	6			
Bills of exchange purchased on time - - -	1,303	15	0	3,274	11	2
Making the actual revenue - - -				16,512	0	10
If we deduct from this the amount of bonds of 1875 received in 1876 - - - - -				2,664	8	11
				13,847	11	11

	£	s.	d.
and add to the balance the amount of bonds given in 1876, but not due until 1877 - - - -	2,215	7	7
The result - - - -	16,062	19	6

gives a very close approximation to the actual revenue of the year 1876.

I have made arrangements for the keeping of an account in detail of the actual revenue and expenditure of each year, and in future financial reports of the Settlement I expect to be able to show clearly the revenue and expenditure fairly belonging to the year. At present I can only report on the receipt and expenses of the Colony in the customary manner.

Taking, then, the revenue as 16,512*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, and comparing it with the similar revenue of 1875, 22,581*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, the large decrease of 6,069*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is exhibited.

This decrease arises from a falling off in the ground nut crop of the year, which, in addition to causing a decrease of the amount of the export duty on that article (as compared with that of 1875) of 3,016*l.* affected, adversely, the tonnage dues, in a similar comparison 1,268*l.*; pilotage, 238*l.*, and sensibly reduced the receipts for duty on tobacco, and on that class of goods which pays an *ad valorem* duty.

The following table shows in detail the receipts under the head of Customs during the years 1875 and 1876 :—

Article.	1876.			1875.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wine - - -	673	17	4	799	18	7	-	-	-	126	1	3
Spirits - - -	2,033	9	2	1,975	10	4	57	18	10	—		
Tobacco - -	2,126	15	10	2,578	5	4	-	-	-	451	9	6
Sugar - - -	246	5	11	372	11	1	-	-	-	126	5	2
Cola nuts - -	1,625	15	11	1,470	15	6	155	0	5	—		
Palm wine - -	679	6	1	743	10	10	-	-	-	64	4	9
Guns - - -	769	16	0	633	16	0	136	0	0	—.		
Gunpowder - -	135	15	0	257	10	6	-	-	-	121	15	6
Bricks - - -	14	17	6	61	9	0	-	-	-	46	11	6
Goods paying ad valorem duty - - -	916	9	9	1,909	4	9	-	-	-	992	15	0
Export duty on ground nuts - - -	3,328	14	6	6,345	13	0	-	-	-	3,016	18	6
Export duty on hides -	155	0	4	122	3	6	32	16	10	—		
Quarantine dues -	66	3	0	110	5	0	-	-	-	44	2	0
Tonnage dues - -	1,271	7	0	2,539	19	6	-	-	-	1,268	12	6
Pilotage - - -	242	8	0	480	12	0	-	-	-	238	4	0
Total -	14,286	1	4	20,401	4	11	381	16	1	6,496	19	8

The sources of revenue, besides customs, exhibit no noteworthy alteration.

Expenditure.

The expenditure was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Disbursed on the spot -	17,981	12	6			
Disbursed by Colonial Agents in London - -	3,507	9	0			
				21,489	1	6
From this must be deducted -	-		-	1,303	15	0
Paid for bills of exchange which is included in remittances to Colonial Agents, reducing the expenditure to	-		-	20,185	6	6
To which must be added "remittances to Crown Agents" during the year -	-		-	3,433	6	4
				23,618	12	10

Of this remittance 2,972*l.* was on account of advances by the Crown Agents prior to 1876.

	£	s.	d.
The expenditure of 1876 was - -	20,185	6	6
„ „ 1875 „ - -	19,564	17	0
Showing an increase in 1876 of -	620	9	6

There has been an increase under several heads of service, and a decrease under others.

	£	s.	d.	
The total increase was - -	2,204	14	4	
„ decrease „ - -	1,584	4	10	
Showing difference of increase -	620	9	6	as above.

This increase is mainly owing to additional expenditure for uniforms, &c. for police, in consequence of the force having been raised to 100.

On the 31st December 1876 the financial position of the Settlement was as follows:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash in chest - - - - -	113	1	4
Due for advances on account of sick liberated Africans - - - - -	86	0	6
Due for advances to heads of departments -	15	10	0
Due by Sierra Leone Government - -	358	17	9
Due by Cape Coast Government - -	50	8	0
Bonds of 1876 due in 1877 - - -	2,215	7	7
Cash deposited on account of intestate estates -	77	18	5
	2,917	3	7

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s	d.
Due, Crown Agents - -	3,073	13	9			
Due, Sierra Leone Government to 30th September 1876 - -	1,397	8	7			
Due to sundry persons for cash borrowed during the year (since paid) - - - -	1,559	7	6			
For expenses incurred in 1876, and not paid, estimated at - (over 1,395*l.* has been already paid in 1877.)	1,750	0	0			
Deposit account, intestate estates -	77	18	5			
				7,858	8	3
Excess of liabilities over assets -				4,941	4	8

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports and exports during the year 1876 was as follows :—

	Imports from	Exports to
	£	£
Great Britain - - - -	41,746	17,472
Leeward Coast, including Sierra Leone -	21,429	3,487
British West Indies - - -	2,151	706
France - - - - -	1,959	59,373
Windward Coast, including Goree -	22,069	4,042
America - - - -	Nil	1,136

The imports from the Windward Coast are, for the most part, French goods imported viâ Goree; part of the trade is also in American produce viâ Goree, there being seldom any direct import from America.

	£
The total value of the imports in 1875 was - -	142,754
„ „ „ 1876 „ - -	89,354
Showing a decrease of - -	53,400
The total value of the exports in 1875 was - -	147,465
„ „ „ 1876 „ - -	86,216
Showing a decrease of - -	61,249

The decrease in almost every item of import was caused by the failure of the ground nut crop of 1876. The articles showing the greatest falling off are—

	£
Ale and porter	522
Amber and coral	505
Anchors and chains	403
Bags (empty)	691
Bricks	628
Cotton goods	24,800
Candles	200
Cotton yarn	1,116
Cotton cards	289
Gunpowder	1,516
Guns	934
Hardware	451
Haberdashery	1,724
Iron bars	350
Lumber	270
Paint and paint oil	290
Provisions	989
Rice	8,961
Soap	323
Salt	881
Sugar	535
Spirits	2,090
Tobacco	736
Wine	908

The decrease in the value of exports is accounted for by the falling off in the export of ground nuts to the extent of 9,033 tons, value 63,200*l.*, owing to a short crop.

There was an increase in the export of hides, 3,329 more having been exported in 1876 than in 1875.

The value of palm kernels exported in 1875 was 37*l.* In 1876 it rose to 508*l.* It is to be hoped that this branch of trade will continue to improve; at present the Settlement is mainly dependent for revenue on the export duty of a single article, ground nuts. No effort should be spared to encourage the development of a new industry.

Shipping.

The serious falling off in the crops of the staple article of export naturally caused a decrease in the shipping trade of the Settlement.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed during the year 1876.

No. 1. To repeal an Ordinance relating to weights and measures.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 were supply Ordinances.

No. 5. To increase the amount of security to be given by the Beadle of the Court of Requests.

Public Works.

There were extensive repairs to the public buildings, and some alterations and additions made at the Police Barracks. The customary cleaning of the streets and drains was carried on.

GAMBIA.

Education.

The returns of the schools of the Established Church reveal a state of things not satisfactory. A decrease of 76 is shown in the daily attendance at the principal week-day school, the number of scholars having fallen from 103 in 1875 to 27 in 1876. Efforts are being made to bring the school up to its former standard.

The returns of the Wesleyans show a better result of the educational labours of this Church. The attendance at their principal school has risen from 179 in 1875 to 202 in 1876. On the other hand, the attendance at some of the minor schools has slightly fallen off.

The Roman Catholic returns show a slight increase.

Gaols and Prisons.

One hundred and sixty-six persons were committed to gaol during the year, being 16 less than in 1875. Of those committed in 1876, nine had been before convicted twice, and five thrice or more. In 1875 the number of those who had been convicted twice was three, and of those convicted thrice or more, one.

Ten prisoners died during the year. The prevailing disease was dropsy.

General Remarks.

The rainfall of 1876 was considerably greater than that of the previous year.

Except a few cases of small-pox, the health of the Settlement was good.

War among the native tribes did not prevail to the usual extent, but from the short crop of ground nuts much privation was felt by the native cultivators of the article. At the close of the year the prospect of a large crop of ground nuts and provisions in 1877 was very great, and it has been to a large extent realised.

(Signed) W. H. BERKELEY,
Bathurst, July 14, 1877. Collector and Treasurer.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 12.

Governor FREELING, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
MY LORD, May 30, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Settlement of the Gold Coast for the year 1876.

2. As I only assumed the Government at the end of the year, my remarks will be chiefly confined to statistics.

3. The revenue for the year was 64,788*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenditure 93,944*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*

Revenue.

4. The revenue was less than that of the two preceding years, it having been in 1874, 74,868*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, and in 1875, 67,368*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

5. The year 1874 was exceptional, on account of the influx of money during the Ashantee war.

6. The revenue of 1875 was possibly affected by the disturbed state of the country outside the Protectorate, owing to the war between the Ashantees and Juabins, while that of 1876 suffered chiefly from a decreased consumption of imported spirits, the natives taking more to the palm wine; the decrease on the duty of spirits alone amounted to 8,502*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

7. The principal items of increase were as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	4,419	10	2
Liquor licenses - - -	1,355	5	10
Interest on investments - -	1,982	15	2

8. The fines include a payment of 1,800*l.* by the King of Ashantee as a portion of the indemnity due, and 1,287*l.* inflicted upon King Doosoo, of Addah, for the plunder of the "Bryn y mor" brig.

9. The increased amount raised from liquor licenses was owing to the new Spirit License Ordinance of 31st December 1875, which came into operation in January 1876. Under Ordinance No. 7 of 1869 the cost of spirit licenses was 2*l.* for each retail license, 10*l.* for each import and wholesale, 25*l.* for each general and wholesale. The Spirit Ordinance, 1875, continued the two first, but did not re-enact the provision of former Ordinances which prohibited importation of spirits except by holders of wholesale licenses. It was considered that importation ought to be under no restriction except by the Custom regulations, which were provided for sufficiently under the Gold Coast Customs Ordinance, 1876. Under this Ordinance general wholesale licenses were abolished, as they allowed persons to open a wholesale store at all or any of the ports of entry, thus conferring an undue advantage on the merchant of large means in comparison with the smaller dealer.

Under former Ordinance licenses could only be taken out yearly. This provides for half-yearly licenses.

Expenditure.

10. The principal items showing increase of expenditure were :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries fixed - - -	5,061	10	6
Public works - - -	7,563	4	4
Crown Agent's commission -	317	16	0
Gaols - - - -	276	1	10
Refund of duties - - -	309	16	2
Rents - - - -	210	5	6
Special expenses - - -	13,823	7	10
Transport - - - -	1,973	19	2

GOLD COAST.

11. Of the above, the increase of salaries was owing to the appointment of some additional officers to the constabulary force and the transfer of sundry of the "provisional and temporary salaries" to the fixed establishment.

12. There was a decrease of 3,607*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* on the provisional and temporary salaries, which thus left the total increase of salaries 1,453*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*

13. With regard to public works, the increase was caused by works being carried on throughout the whole year against half a year in 1875, they having been commenced in July of that year.

14. The special expenses include an expenditure of 7,296*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* over and above the grants voted for 1876 and of 6,490*l.* 7*s.* unprovided for.

15. Out of the expenses for transport, 1,162*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* was on account of new works.

16. Putting on one side the expenditure for new works, which was partly defrayed from a parliamentary grant and special expenses, the revenue has been in excess of the expenditure.

Public Debt.

17. There is no public debt. In 1874 a grant of 35,000*l.* was made by the Imperial Government to meet certain expenditure on account of new buildings, roads, telegraphs, &c., with the understanding that this should be repaid when the Colony was in a position to do so. 15,000*l.* has been repaid this year.

Military Expenditure.

18. No expense is incurred by the Colony as to its purely military defence.

19. The garrison of Cape Coast Castle during 1876 consisted of two companies of the 1st West India Regiment, at a total cost of 13,283*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, exclusive of officers' pay drawn in England and stores sent here from England.

20. The local defensive force of the Settlement is represented by the constabulary, which is kept up at a cost of 22,845*l.* per annum.

21. The forts and redoubts garrisoned by the constabulary are as follows, with the cost of each only as to pay of constabulary therein stationed:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Anamaboe Fort - - -	153	8	5
Accra „ - - -	1,447	9	4
Quittah „ - - -	2,196	3	3
Elmina „ - - -	1,116	4	8
Secondee „ - - -	216	7	10
Dixcove „ - - -	741	3	1
Axim „ - - -	1,290	15	6
Mansue Redoubt - - -	738	18	8
Prahsue Redoubt and Stockade -	1,876	12	2

Public Works.

22. The expenditure on account of public works for the year amounted to 17,223*l.* 12*s.*, exclusive of salaries, which were 3,037*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*

23. 15,945*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* was expended on new works, which was exceptional.

24. Most of the new works having been completed, and others in an advanced stage, the services of some of the expensive staff can now be dispensed with.

Legislation.

25. Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following were the most important, viz.:—

No. 3. "An Ordinance for embodying in one Ordinance the "Rules of Interpretation applicable to certain Terms and Pro- "visions usually adopted in Ordinances and Rules of Court."

No. 4. "An Ordinance for the constitution of a Supreme "Court, and for further purposes relating to the Administration "of Justice."

No. 5. "An Ordinance to make provision in relation to Criminal "Law and Procedure."

No. 7. "An Ordinance to re-enact certain duties of Customs."

No. 8. "An Ordinance regulating the acquisition and vesting "of Lands for the Public Service."

No. 9. "An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Prisons."

No. 10. "An Ordinance to make provision for the management "and regulation of the Customs and Trade of the Gold Coast "Colony and adjacent Territories."

26. The Interpretation Ordinance, the Supreme Court Ordinance, the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, and the Prison Ordinance were passed with the intent of carrying out the scheme for the administration of justice in Her Majesty's Courts on the Gold Coast Colony in accordance with the instructions conveyed in the Earl of Carnarvon's Despatch No. 55 of April 16, 1875.

27. The object of Ordinance No. 7 was to place on a more satisfactory footing the provisions of previous Ordinances as to the levying of duties.

28. Ordinance No. 8 had for its object to provide competent methods by which any lands required for the service of the Colonial Government may be acquired and subsequently vested.

29. The Gold Coast Customs Ordinance was passed not only to meet the defects of the previous Ordinances of the Settlement, but also to provide for a more effectual application to the large extent of coast which is unoccupied by any part of the Settlement. I imagine that this will tend to check much of the smuggling that undoubtedly exists.

Civil Establishment.

30. The following changes took place:—Mr. Sanford Freeling, C.M.G., appointed Governor November 24, in the room of Captain Strahan, C.M.G., appointed to Barbados. Captain A. W.

GOLD COAST.

Baker, Inspector-General of Constabulary, appointed to be Inspector Commandant of Police, Trinidad, and left to assume his new office on September 22. Captain J. S. Hay, of the constabulary, was appointed in his stead. Five new appointments were made during the year to the constabulary, one the Artillery Inspector and four Assistant Inspectors. One Assistant Inspector, H. Graves, died on February 11, 1876. Two Assistant Inspectors left the constabulary, one—Mr. T. C. Annesley—being unable to serve in the West Africa climate, and subsequently appointed to the police in the Straits Settlements, and the other—Captain A. Ashe—who was a half-pay officer, being ordered to assume the active duties of his profession. The office of Assistant Magistrate in the Settlement became vacant by the appointment of Colonel Foster Foster to be a stipendiary magistrate in British Guiana. Mr. Woodcock was appointed on April 27, 1876, to the establishment to assume the position of Queen's Advocate of the Colony on the promotion of Sir D. Chalmers to be Chief Justice.

31. The health of the public officers has been fairly good. Seven officers were invalided during the year, of whom two died.

Imports and Exports.

32. The total value of imports was 446,088*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, and of exports 465,268*l.* 8*s.*; the United Kingdom being the first, America the second, and Germany the third in the amount of both.

33. The imports consist chiefly of cotton and silk goods, wines, spirits, tobacco, beads, brass, and copper ware, haberdashery, hardware and cutlery, provisions, salt, shooks.

34. The exports are principally palm oil, palm kernels, gold dust and ornaments, gum, monkey skins, parrots, and rice birds.

Shipping.

35. Eighty-five sailing vessels and 67 steamers entered and the same number cleared.

36. The aggregate tonnage of the sailing vessels was 20,938 tons, and of steamers 66,544.

Education.

37. Education is principally carried on by the Basle and Wesleyan Missionary Societies, there being only one Church of England school at Cape Coast.

38. The number of scholars of both sexes appear to be—

Church of England, 213; in 1875, 187.
Wesleyan Mission, 2,651; in 1875, 1,978.
Basle, 1,080; in 1875, 616.

Criminal Statistics.

39. These have not been compiled with sufficient care and accuracy, but I trust that an improvement will be shown in the future.

General Remarks.

40. As my Government only commenced at the end of last year, I prefer not to make any remarks upon the past, the present, and the future prospects of the Colony, beyond expressing my opinion that the humane, just, and firm policy of the Government is daily tending to increased tranquillity among the tribes of the Protectorate, and to the happiness and prosperity of the community at large.

I have, &c.
S. FREELING,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

LAGOS.

No. 13.

Administrator LEES, C.M.G., to Governor FREELING, C.M.G.

Government House, Lagos,
June 4, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book (three copies) for the year 1876, accompanied by a Report upon the same by Mr. Malcolm J. Brown, the Assistant Colonial Secretary for the Settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Administrator.

His Excellency
Governor Freeling, C.M.G.

Assistant Colonial Secretary's Office, Lagos,
May 25, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for this Settlement for the year 1876, accompanied by a brief Report, in which I have endeavoured to embody such points as appear to call for special remark.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for the past year amounted to 46,448*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, being 3,081*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* in excess of the year 1875, and within 320*l.* of the estimated revenue. The expenditure amounted to 45,170*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, being 1,277*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* within the revenue.

3. The increase in the revenue was in a great measure to be attributed to the blockade of Whydah, which stopped the supplies of the King of Dahomey from being landed at that and other places under his control, and which also prevented supplies reaching other countries which are usually fed through the King's territory. In the year 1872 the revenue having been found insufficient to meet the excess expenditure of previous years, owing principally to the decrease of trade, it was found necessary to

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obtain a loan of 20,000*l.* from Imperial Parliament. In the year 1875 one moiety of this loan was paid off, and during the past year the second moiety has been liquidated, so that the Colony is now entirely free of debt, aud at the end of the year under review it had to its credit an available cash balance of 10,425*l.*

Public Works.

4. The outlay on public works amounted to 3,552*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, the principal portion of which was devoted to ordinary maintenance and repairs, with the exception of the erection of a commodious court house, which was completed last year at a cost of 1,007*l.*

Ordinances.

5. The following Ordinances more particularly affecting this Settlement have been passed during the year, viz. :—

No. 2. "An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain expendi-
" ture for the service of the Settlement of Lagos for the year one
" thousand eight hundred and seventy-five."

No. 6. "An Ordinance to apply a sum of money out of the
" revenue of the Settlement of Lagos, required for defraying the
" expenses of civil government of that Settlement, for the year
" one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six."

No. 8. "An Ordinance regulating the acquisition and vesting
" of lands for the public service."

Staff.

6. No changes of sufficient importance to call for special notice have been effected in the personnel of the staff.

Foreign Consul.

7. The only foreign Power represented is Germany, for whom Mr. W. Heldbek is the Acting Consul.

Population.

8. The population of the town of Lagos has been roughly estimated at 32,358, but if the number of inhabitants in the inland and outlying districts be taken into account, the number will probably be increased to about 60,000.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

9. The following is a return showing the number of births, marriages, and deaths :—

Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
198	65	630

The number of marriages here given represents the number solemnised after the forms of the Christian Churches.

Education and Ecclesiastical.

10. Under the head of education a sum of 355*l.* 7*s.* has been expended during the year, the amount having been divided among the various religious bodies who have established themselves here, and who have been doing good work in endeavouring to educate the native children, and in giving the benefits of religious

instruction to the natives generally. The present number of scholars attending the elementary schools of all religious denominations is nearly 1,800, and are divided as follows, viz.:—

Church Missionary Society -	- 1,008
Wesleyan „ -	- 527
Roman Catholic „ -	- 255

The Mahomedans also exercise a great influence over the population in converting them from heathenism. There are at present 14 churches and chapels in which divine service is conducted, and they are all well attended.

Imports and Exports.

11. The value of imports for the year 1876 was 476,812*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* and the exports 619,260*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase of 17,075*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* and 101,724*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* respectively over the previous year.

Shipping.

12. The number of ships entered amounted to 222, giving a total tonnage of 41,887, and the number of ships cleared amounted to 215, giving a total tonnage of 39,982. These figures are irrespective of the weekly mail steamers.

Post Office.

13. The work of the Post Office during 1876 consisted in the receipt and delivery of 15,572 letters and the despatch of 19,847, in addition to which money orders were issued on the United Kingdom to the amount of 7,422*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, and on Sierra Leone to the amount of 1,633*l.* The money orders payable in Lagos are few and of very small amount, having been in 1876 only 17*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* issued in Great Britain, and 570*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* issued in Sierra Leone.

Crime.

14. It is satisfactory to observe that during the past year crime has been on the decrease, the number of summary convictions and the number of prisoners committed for trial being shown in the following return:—

1875. Number of summary convictions -	- 811
1876. „ „ -	- 679
1875. Number of prisoners committed for trial	- 121
1876. „ „	- 74

Medical and Sanitary.

15. There are two hospitals, one for general purposes and one situated in an isolated position for smallpox. The number of patients treated in the former during the year was 8,835. The stringent carrying out of the Compulsory Vaccination Ordinance has had a good effect on the health of the population, who have scarcely suffered at all from smallpox. The health of the

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European population and of the native population was, on the whole, good. The important improvements in drainage and the reclamation of swamp lands have no doubt contributed to this satisfactory result.

Relations with Neighbouring Tribes.

16. The state of trade generally has been good, and so long as peace is maintained amongst the neighbouring tribes it is likely to improve, good supplies of palm oil and palm kernels, the principal sources of trade, continuing to come down. The relations of the Government with the neighbouring tribes have been, on the whole, satisfactory, as the state of trade, a very fair indicator, shows.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MALCOLM J. BROWN,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

HELIGOLAND.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 14.

GOVERNOR FITZ-MAXSE, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Heligoland, August 7, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1876.

2. I am happy to be able to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the abolition of the playtables and of the consequent loss of income, and the heavy outlay incurred by the purchase of the Bathing Establishment by the Colony, together with the necessary reconstruction of the bathing-house, landing bridges, &c., the Public Debt has been reduced to the sum of 2,213*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, as against the former charge on this head of 7,456*l.* in 1865.

3. In a general way I have the satisfaction of reporting that this little Colony was never in so flourishing a state as at the present time; that the number of visitors during the bathing season are steadily on the increase as in comparison with former years; and that the arrangement of a weekly steam communication with the mainland during the winter has tended greatly to facilitate trade which in former times could hardly be said to have existed during the winter months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FITZ-MAXSE.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

CEYLON.

No. 15.

Lieutenant-Governor BIRCH, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
August 28th, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1876, and to submit the following report on its contents.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for 1876 was Rs. 14,676,136, and the expenditure on the votes of the year Rs. 13,620,590, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 1,055,545. As compared with 1875, the revenue shows an increase of Rs. 232,155 37, and the expenditure an increase of Rs. 605,341 45. To the expenditure on the votes of the year as stated above should be added an expenditure of Rs. 47,154 09 from surplus funds of past years, and Rs. 854,774 75 from balance of previous years' votes brought forward, making a grand total of expenditure for the year of Rs. 14,522,518 87.

The following are the principal items of increases and decreases.

Revenue.

The increase of Rs. 69,941 under the head Customs is due principally to an increased importation of rice during the year.

Licenses, arrack, rum, and toddy, show an increase of Rs. 117,271, owing mainly to the rents in the Central Province having realised higher prices than in 1875.

There is an increase under stamps-general of Rs. 118,191 and under postage of Rs. 17,376, which may be accepted as gratifying evidence of the growing prosperity of the general community.

The increase of Rs. 24,763 under the head of Government Vessels, is due to the return of the "Serendib" after undergoing repairs.

Timber exhibits an increase of Rs. 29,174 owing to the large demands of the Public Works Department during the year.

The increase of Rs. 73,260 under the head Colonial Stores is noticeable merely as a matter of account, the stores being paid for from votes to the several public departments.

Under the head Reimbursements, survey fees show an increase of Rs. 15,043 95, and testify to a corresponding amount of additional work performed by the officers of the Surveyor-General's Department.

There is a small increase of Rs. 17,683–82 under the heading Railway Receipts.

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The total of the items of increase is Rs. 553,682 48, and of decrease Rs. 321,527 11, and of these latter the most noticeable are the following:—

Land Sales Rs. 26,923 77. The decrease is merely apparent. A sum of Rs. 286,689 realised by the sale of lands in the Central Province at the close of 1874 was brought to account at the beginning of 1875, and this amount, though properly credited to the revenue of the latter year, should be deducted for purposes of comparison of the actual transactions during the years 1875 and 1876. The value of the lands sold in 1876 exceeds that of the land sold in the previous year by a considerable amount.

There is a falling off in land revenue of Rs. 63,205 in the sale of paddy rents and in fine grain of Rs. 19,129. As the sale of the grain rents affords a measure of the circumstances of the agricultural population, the decrease is to be regretted; it is ascribable to the partial failure of the yala harvest owing to the unseasonableness of the weather.

The decrease on plumbago is apparent only, the duty on this article being now levied at the Customs, instead of by way of royalty as formerly, and the proceeds of sale of plumbago in 1875 should be left out of account as being an exceptional item, realised from the sale of some plumbago that was confiscated by the order of a court of law.

The decrease of Rs. 25,817 under the head Salt does not represent a corresponding diminution in local consumption; a portion of the revenue is derived from sale for exportation, and it is in this branch that the result for 1876 compares unfavourably with 1875.

The items under "Miscellaneous" are of a casual nature and fluctuate from year to year. There is this year a decrease of Rs. 39,115 under the sub-head Overpayments recovered, and for repayment for deficiency of troops a decrease of Rs. 41,375, owing to the force in the Colony having been kept up to its full strength.

The decrease of Rs. 26,605 on interest on Indian and local investments is explained by the fact that the interest for the second half of 1874 was included in the receipt of 1875.

Expenditure.

The expenditure shows an increase under various heads of Rs. 1,111,237 47 and decreases under others, amounting to Rs. 505,896, or leaving a net balance of Rs. 605,341 45 in excess of the expenditure for 1875.

Under the heading Establishments, which includes fixed and provisional salaries, allowances, and contingencies, there is an increase of Rs. 209,339 61 and a decrease of Rs. 22,240 20, or a net increase of Rs. 187,099 41. For the particulars of this increase, which has mainly accrued under the items of allowances and contingencies, I would refer your Lordship to the detailed statement of the Auditor-General which appears in the Blue Book transmitted with this Despatch.

The items of increase under "Services exclusive of Establishments" aggregate Rs. 901,896 86 and the decreases Rs. 483,655 82, the net increase being Rs. 418,241 04.

The increase of Rs. 52,888 85 for revenue service is chiefly owing to an increased collection and manufacture of salt.

The item of Rs. 37,698 61 under the head Hospitals has been necessitated by the prevalence of cholera in various parts of the island and especially in the Northern Province.

"Works and buildings, and roads, streets, and bridges" account for increases of Rs. 38,909 80 and Rs. 391,781 68 respectively, and these will be noticed in my remarks on the Department of Public Works.

The cost of additional waterways and additional accommodation for the railway brings the expenditure on railway services to an amount exceeding that for 1875 by Rs. 49,350 23, and the expenditure on railway construction, on which there is an increase of Rs. 280,000, includes a sum of Rs. 153,000 provided for the redemption of the local loan on account of the Nawalapitiya Branch, and a sum of Rs. 400,000 which was placed in deposit to meet probable expenditure in 1877 on the construction of the railway to Matale.

"*Miscellaneous.*"—The expenses connected with the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales were charged to this head in 1875, as was also the increase of Rs. 60,000 to the salaries of the clerical branch of the service now appearing under the head "Provisional Salaries." A large proportion of the apparent decrease under "Miscellaneous," Rs. 324,674 77, is accounted for by the occurrence of these exceptional items in 1875.

The decrease of Rs. 123,296 67 in the expenditure on the Colonial store is explained by the large purchases of coal made in 1875 in anticipation of a rise in the market and by the unusually large stock of building materials received into store during that year.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on December 31, 1876 amounted to Rs. 6,165,086 22 or 577,976*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, and the liabilities to Rs. 4,157,465 16½ or 389,762*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, the excess of the former being therefore Rs. 2,007,621 5½ or 188,214*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, and deducting from this the sum of Rs. 500,000 required under the standing instructions of the Secretary of State to be held in reserve, the net balance amounted to Rs. 1,507,621 5½ or 141,339*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

The debt of the Colony on the same date was 784,375*l.*, of which 600,000*l.* is the balance of the 700,000*l.* raised under the Ordinances 19 of 1862 and 17 of 1864 for the construction of the railway from Colombo to Kandy. For the repayment of this amount the sum of 58,000*l.* per annum is contributed by general revenue to a sinking fund which had to its credit at the close of the year a sum of 354,100*l.* The batch of debentures next repayable amounts to 250,000*l.*, and falls due in 1878. The

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balance of the debt comprises 75,000*l.* received from the Public Works Commissioners under Ordinance No. 6 of 1875 towards the construction of the Colombo Breakwater, 100,000*l.* being the first instalment of the loan of 400,000*l.* authorised for the same purpose by Ordinance No. 1 of 1876, and 9,375*l.* being the balance of the loan of Rs. 400,000 for the extension of the railway from Kandy to Nawalapitiya. The last item will be paid off from revenue in next December.

Imports and Exports.

The value of goods imported in 1876, exclusive of specie, was Rs. 49,071,807, showing an increase on the previous year of Rs. 4,243,757. In the value of exports, exclusive of specie, there is a decrease of Rs. 10,303,387, the figures for the two years being Rs. 46,032,618 and Rs. 56,336,005.

Adding the value of the specie imported and exported during the year, the imports aggregate a total of Rs. 59,337,427, and the exports Rs. 48,102,353, showing a grand total of Rs. 107,439,780.

The corresponding figures for 1875 are—

Imports	-	Rs. 57,186,554
Exports	-	57,337,707
Total	-	114,524,261

Imports.

Cotton goods, twist, and thread were imported to a value of Rs. 9,769,968, and the duty collected on the quantity entered for local use exceeded that for 1875 by Rs. 36,304.

Coal and Coke.—64,002 tons of coal were imported as against 86,232 in 1875, to which must be added 5,034 tons imported by Government on which no duty was leviable. The larger proportion is still shipped to Galle, which received 53,693 tons during the year.

Articles of Food.—There is an increase on biscuits of Rs. 34,397; butter, Rs. 11,383; hams and bacon, Rs. 12,317; sugar, Rs. 26,826; curry stuffs, Rs. 61,650; fish dried and salted, Rs. 5,996, and oilman stores Rs. 36,979, and a decrease on wheat flour of Rs. 42,410.

In grain the increased importation has produced an increase of Customs receipts amounting to Rs. 62,886. Of rice 5,744,531 bushels were imported for home consumption in 1876, being an excess of 366,746 bushels over the importations of the preceding year.

Manures show an increase of 5,968 tons and Rs. 536,678 in value, and machinery an increase of Rs. 44,488.

The decrease on metals and metal ware amounts to Rs. 133,255, and that on poonac to Rs. 37,078.

Of malt liquor 306,313 gallons were imported as against 264,373 gallons in 1875.

Tobacco, cigars, and snuff show an increase of Rs. 81,416, and wines a decrease of Rs. 20,341.

As regards the importations from Australia and Hongkong there is a decrease of Rs. 1,057,173 in the former case, of which Rs. 951,250 is represented by a less amount of specie imported, and in the latter a large increase, which is entirely due to an additional importation of Rs. 1,288,538 in specie.

Exports.

The value of the Ceylon produce exported in 1876 shows a falling off of Rs. 9,633,662 as compared with 1875, but an increase of Rs. 1,853,684 over 1874, and the value of imports exported is below that for 1875 by Rs. 669,726.

The subjoined table exhibits the difference between the value of the exports to the several countries named in the years 1875 and 1876.

Decrease

	Rs.
United Kingdom - - -	7,784,085
United States, America - -	910,912
Trieste - - - -	1,080,538
Italy - - - - -	250,339
Odessa, Russia - - -	22,793

Increase.

France - - - -	583,746
Australia - - -	211,704

The average value of the coffee exported has been fixed for the year at Rs. 53 for plantation and Rs. 40 for native kinds. The decrease on both kinds amounts to 258,640 cwts., representing a value of Rs. 10,828,780.

Cinnamon shows a decrease of 50,109 lbs. or Rs. 25,070, and cinchona bark a decrease of 4,220 lbs.

In coir stuffs there is a decrease of 1,544 cwts., or Rs. 45,894, but an increase in cocoanut oil of 1,109,008 gallons, valued at Rs. 1,111,440.

Plumbago and salt exhibit increases of 7,338 cwts. and 48,756 cwts. respectively.

On arrack there is an increase of 32,176 gallons valued at Rs. 81,028, the total exportation amounting to 118,885 gallons, of which 103,031 gallons were shipped from Galle.

In timber of all sorts there is a falling off, the most noticeable item being ebony, which shows a decrease of 12,223 cwts., or Rs. 52,417.

There is a slight increase of 1,071 cwts. in the exportation of manufactured tobacco, and in rice an increase of 70,213 bushels.

Shipping.

As compared with 1875 there is an increase of vessels and tonnage inwards of 87 vessels and 41,986 tons, and outwards of

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216 vessels and 66,135 tons. The increase in the number and aggregate tonnage of steamers inwards and outwards is 34 and 30, and 41,749 tons and 37,174 tons respectively.

Public Works.

The expenditure of the Public Works Department, including the cost of the establishment during the year, amounted to Rs. 4,656,801, a sum exceeding the expenditure of 1875 by Rs. 417,938 or by an increase of about 9·85 per cent. The cost of the establishment, including transport, rent, and contingencies, was Rs. 383,724, or about 9 per cent. on the outlay on works.

The subjoined table exhibits a classified statement of the expenditure of the two years under comparison.

—	1876.	1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Establishment, including transport, rent, and contingencies - -	383,724 24	372,648 54	11,075 70	—
Upkeep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works - - -	1,682,838 29½	1,495,612 73	187,225 56½	—
Repairs of buildings -	108,787 96½	122,757 38	—	13,969 41½
Departmental charges and miscellaneous - -	190,715 08	259,396 09	—	68,681 01
New works and buildings -	388,836 96	394,070 27	—	5,233 31
Alterations and additions to buildings - - -	105,319 66	85,593 54	19,726 12	—
New roads and addition to roads - - -	1,099,716 55½	924,092 97	175,623 58½	—
New bridges - -	401,358 11½	318,450 51	82,907 60½	—
Inland navigation - -	21,583 11	27,820 64	—	6,237 53
Irrigation works - -	273,921 24½	238,420 17	35,501 07½	—
Total - -	4,656,801 22½	4,238,862 84	512,059 65	94,121 26½

The funds from which the expenditure has been met are as follows :—

—	1876.	1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Supply Bill, 1876 - -	2,823,652 95	2,603,708 54	219,944 41	—
Supplementary Supply Bill, 1876 - - -	384,677 30	201,618 95	183,058 35	—
Unexpended balance of previous years - -	971 630 91½	852,865 69	118,765 22½	—
Road Ordinance funds -	243,577 72½	240,229 63	3,348 09½	—
Private contribution -	166,092 77½	190,130 24	—	24,037 46½
Loan board funds - -	18,540 83	39,534 16	—	20,993 33
Surplus fund, 1873 - -	47,297 71	101,895 51	—	54,597 80
From votes from other departments - -	1,331 02	5,505 96	—	4,174 94
Total - -	4,656,801 22½	4,235,488 68	525,116 08	103,803 53½

The following table shows the expenditure in the several Provinces, including the cost of establishment, which is proportionately distributed:—

—	1876.	1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Western Province - -	1,453,111 24	1,375,230 69	77,880 55	—
North-western Province -	288,663 18½	236,478 45	52,184 73½	—
Southern Province - -	475,088 15	367,643 92	107,444 23	—
Eastern Province - -	230,750 10½	289,761 74	—	59,011 63½
Northern Province - -	409,722 59	341,324 39	68,398 20	—
North Central Province -	371,470 72½	280,546 91	90,923 81½	—
Central Province - -	1,427,995 23	1,347,876 74	80,118 49	—
Total - -	4,656,801 22½	4,238,862 84	476,950 02	59,011 63½

The amounts expended under the various heads of roads, bridges, irrigation, &c. in each Province, are contained in the classified table which follows, the sums collected from private contributions to grant-in-aid roads and from funds levied under the Road Ordinance being entered in *italics*:—

1876.

—	Western Province.	North-western Province.	Southern Province.	Eastern Province.	Northern Province.	North Central Province.	Central Province.	Total.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Works and Buildings.								
New works and buildings - -	135,016 77	4,267 99	17,922 09	14,755 41	60,724 02	35,212 23	103,263 04	371,161 55
Alterations and additions to buildings - - -	44,218 36	10,919 87	10,612 41	6,476 49	9,743 87	14,642 76	21,631 53	118,245 29
Repairs to buildings - - -	44,056 55	6,707 40	10,892 14	3,500 82	12,393 09½	3,161 25	25,423 36	106,134 61½
Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Canals.								
							61,473 99½	*61,473 99½*
New roads - -	149,916 46	1,835 0	63,493 78	29,319 77	16,771 26	- - -	268,117 89½	529,454 16½
Additions and improvements to roads - - -	15,820 65	30,606 86	13,653 51	*5,796 25* 43,170 78	147,118 78	*2,075 45* 157,898 61½	81,793 84	*7,871 70* 490,063 03½
	80,108 0	*31,742 34*	*33,024 61*	*8,361 46*	*31,999 59*	*8,332 20*	*142,610 45½*	*336,178 65½*
Upkeep of roads -	327,646 17	87,301 19	117,761 94	57,406 74	45,922 86½	35,103 60	573,422 26	1,244,564 76½
New bridges - -	311,652 42	21,334 99	15,315 01	89 75	49,765 94½	- - -	3,200 0	401,358 11½
							4,146 15	*4,116 15*
Repair of bridges -	17,631 12	3,413 60	31,145 65	3,697 13	3,768 65½	1,433 22	18,822 42	79,911 79½
Inland navigation -	15,634 29	5,948 82	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	21,583 11
Irrigation Works.								
New works - -	21,354 93	53,824 41½	110,595 58	17,541 47	- - -	69,835 77	149 0	273,301 16½
Upkeep works -	1,012 28	1,661 99	9,876 54	8,811 70	- - -	1,367 01	1,187 34	23,916 86
Departmental Charges.								
Ferry boats - -	1,718 22	381 32	- - -	1,331 01	276 29	- - -	- - -	3,706 84
General Service -	10,847 12	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,999 93	12,847 05
Miscellaneous -	138,637 39	907 36	6,666 68	3,098 56½	1,305 16	1,692 54	34,850 43½	187,158 13
	80,108 0	*31,742 34*	*33,024 61*	*14,157 71*	*31,999 59*	*10,407 65*	*208,230 60*	*409,670 50*
	1,235,162 73	229,110 80½	407,935 33	189,199 63½	347,789 94	320,346 99½	1,133,861 05	3,803,406 48½
Establishment -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	383,724 24
								409,670 50
Total Rs.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,247,130 72½

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The new Custom House, the new offices for the department of the Surveyor-General, and the Museum were completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 112,268, Rs. 65,993, and Rs. 119,994, respectively. They are creditable to the Colony both in design and in execution, and the Museum is perhaps one of the handsomest buildings of its class in the East.

Breakwater.

The expenditure on the Colombo Breakwater during the year amounted to Rs. 696,050. The preliminary work of the root was completed and the sea wall of the pier was commenced to a length of 23 feet.

The Queen's Houses and their furniture and equipment are reported by the Director of Public Works and the Colonial Storekeeper to be in fair order.

Survey Department.

There were sold during the year 2,791 lots aggregating 25,632½ acres for a sum of Rs. 1,101,394, a higher amount than has ever before been realised in any one year. The survey fees, which are exclusive of this sum, amounted to Rs. 50,179. This large revenue is the total of the proceeds of land sales during the year. The amount actually brought to account within the year is stated under the head "Revenue and Expenditure." Certificates were given for 693 lots in addition, containing 2,867 acres, the survey fees on which amounts to Rs. 7,067, and fair progress was made with the detailed surveys of Temple lands. The total number of lots alienated by the Crown was 3,819, and the acreage 38,052, of which 9,553 acres were Temple lands. The gross expenditure of the Department was Rs. 302,038, which includes the cost of many works in addition to the survey of lands for sale, such as chena and irrigation surveys, and surveys undertaken by the Department in connexion with railways, questions of boundaries, sites for public buildings, and the proposed Colombo Waterworks. The recoveries for survey and tracing fees amounted to Rs. 69,822. The following tables are interesting as showing the details of the lands sold or otherwise disposed of in the several Provinces, and the extent and value of the lots sold to Europeans and Natives during the year.

RETURNS of LANDS sold or otherwise disposed of during the Year 1876.

Provinces.	Crown Lands sold.				Encroachments sold or given at a Valuation.				Granted at half value.				Old Grants or Grants made in terms of the Minute of 8th Aug. 1844.			Free Grants or Settlements for Certificates against the Crown.			Total Results of Sales, &c. of each Province during the Year.				
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Amount including Fees.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central - -	127	8,843	630,329	12,987	8	23	478	67	48	118	4,147	372	—	—	—	84	705	1,322	267	9,690	634,954	14,749	649,703
Western - -	945	8,525	293,101	17,523	—	—	—	—	21	352	11,909	1,162	1	11	—	570	1,655	4,889	1,727	10,545	305,010	23,574	328,585
Eastern - -	421	2,122	27,534	5,724	43	104	1,709	321	159	186	4,046	735	—	—	—	—	—	—	623	2,412	33,289	6,780	40,069
Southern - -	212	789	14,418	2,169	380	631	8,878	2,062	17	11	302	49	—	—	—	5	3	7	614	1,434	23,598	4,287	27,885
Northern - -	96	375	4,163	1,041	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96	375	4,163	1,041	5,205
North-western -	109	3,475	99,040	5,734	—	—	—	—	1	77	1,340	231	—	—	—	33	492	848	157	4,044	100,380	6,814	107,195
North Central -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Temple lands showing fees due on the title plans issued - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38,556	38,556
Fees actually recovered on Temple land title plans - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48,006	48,006
Fees for tracings, &c. - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,386	3,386
Totals - -	1,910	24,129	1,068,585	45,178	431	758	11,065	2,450	450	744	21,744	2,549	1	11	—	692	2,855	7,066	3,484	28,500	1,101,394	147,193	1,248,590

ABSTRACT showing the NUMBER of LOTS, ACREAGE, PURCHASE AMOUNT, and FEES of LAND sold or otherwise alienated from the CROWN in the respective PROVINCES during the Year 1876.

Provinces.	Lots sold and granted at half value.					Lots settled on Certificates, Free Grants, &c.			Total Receipts for each Province.
	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average Rate per Acre.	Fees.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Central - -	183	8,984 3 1·50	634,954 8	70 67	13,427 0	84	704 3 28·50	1,322 30	649,703 38
Western - -	1,156	8,877 2 25·	305,010 75	34 35	18,685 60	571	1,667 2 31·	4,889 20	328,585 55
Eastern - -	623	2,411 1 37·	33,288 56½	13 80	6,779 50	—	—	—	40,068 6½
Southern - -	609	1,431 0 25·41	23,597 15	16 48¾	4,279 80	5	2 1 16·	7 50	27,884 45
Northern - -	96	375 0 35·	4,163 44	11 10	1,041 80	—	—	—	5,205 24
North-western -	124	3,552 0 13·	100,380 39	28 26	5,966 0	33	491 3 33·	848 30	107,194 69
North Central -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2,791	25,632 1 16·91	1,101,394 37½	42 98	50,179 70	693	2,866 3 28·50	7,067 30	1,158,641 37½
Temple lands showing fees due on title plans issued -	—	—	—	—	—	335	9,553 1 36·	5,100 50	—
Fees actually recovered on account of Temple lands title plans -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,189 08
Fees for tracings, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,385 75½	3,385 75½
Total - -	2,791	25,632 1 16·91	1,101,394 37½	42 98	50,179 70	1,028	12,420 1 24·50	15,553 55½	1,171,216 21

ABSTRACT of LANDS sold to EUROPEANS and NATIVES in 1876.

Provinces.	Europeans.			Natives.		
	Lots.	A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Lots.	A. R. P.	Rs. cts.
Central - - -	79	7,794 1 7	540,290 15	188	1,895 1 23	109,413 23
Western - - -	31	3,842 3 11	223,026 50	1,696	6,702 2 5	105,559 05
Eastern - - -	—	—	—	623	2,411 1 37	40,068 06½
Southern - - -	—	—	—	614	1,433 2 1·40	23,597 15
Northern - -	—	—	—	96	375 0 35	5,205 24
North-western - -	7	1,847 1 24	20,991 60	150	2,196 2 22	86,203 09
North Central - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals - -	117	13,484 2 2	784,308 25	3,367	15,014 3 3·40	370,045 82½

Railway.

The length of line open for public traffic was the same as in the previous year, 91½ miles, to which must be added 3½ miles of line for carriage of materials for the Colombo Harbour Works, making in all 95 miles.

The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 2,992,728* as against Rs. 2,896,223 for 1875, or Rs. 96,505 in favour of 1876. To this should be added a sum of Rs. 17,145 that was charged in 1875 on account of interest that might have been earned in that year and was included in the total for that year, as the corresponding item has been struck out of the returns for 1876, and the total of Rs. 2,992,728 is exclusive of such a charge. The actual balance therefore in favour of 1876 is Rs. 113,650. After

* The discrepancy between this statement and that furnished by the Auditor-General is due to the fact that the railway officers take credit for the actual receipts while the auditor enters only those that are brought to account within the year.

deducting working expenses the net earnings on the main line from Colombo to Kandy produced about 10 per cent. on the capital expenditure, and on the branch line from Peradeniya to Gampola about 6 per cent.

Legislation.

The Ordinances which were passed during the year and at the adjourned session in January 1877 are enumerated below.

June 23, 1876. Ordinance No. 1.—For the raising by debentures of a further sum of 400,000*l.* sterling for the improvement of the Harbour of Colombo.

June 23, 1876. Ordinance No. 2.—To amend the Ordinance No. 6 of 1875.

June 23, 1876. Ordinance No. 3.—To provide for the acquisition of land for public purposes.

October 11, 1876. Ordinance No. 4.—To provide for the validity of the registration of certain births and deaths made by Assen Lebbe Mohamadu Tambi and Kasi Lebbe Usubu Lebbe respectively.

November 8, 1876. Ordinance No. 5.—To amend the Ordinance No. 6 of 1873, intituled "An Ordinance to prescribe the order in "which the property of public defaulters may in certain cases be "seized and sold."

November 20, 1876. Ordinance No 6.—To regulate the sale of poisons in Ceylon.

November 20, 1876. Ordinance No. 7.—To provide for the establishment of local boards of health, and improvement in certain localities.

November 20, 1876. Ordinance No. 8.—To amend the law as to weights and measures, and to provide for the more effectual prevention of false weights, measures, and balances.

November 20, 1876. Ordinance No. 9.—To amend the law relating to cattle trespass.

November 29, 1876. Ordinance No. 10.—To repeal the Wharf and Warehouse Ordinance, 1865, and to make further provision for the establishment in Colombo and regulation of a company to perform the duties of wharfingers and warehousemen.

December 6, 1876. Ordinance No. 11.—To amend the law regulating the entail and settlement of immovable property.

December 13, 1876. Ordinance No. 12.—For making provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1876.

December 19, 1876. Ordinance No. 13.—For continuing the Ordinance No. 8 of 1874, intituled "An Ordinance to check "coffee stealing."

January 4, 1877. Ordinance No. 14.—To establish further tolls.

January 4, 1877. Ordinance No. 15.—To amend the law relating to the matrimonial rights of married persons with regard to property and the law of inheritance.

CEYLON.

Public Health.

In June an outbreak of fever was reported in the Three and Four and Hewagam Korales. The fever was not of a dangerous type, it was one of the common malarial forms incidental to those low-lying and flooded districts.

An outbreak of fever was also reported at Kalpitiya. In addition to the medical practitioner permanently stationed there, the medical officer of Puttalam was also sent to render medical aid to the sufferers. The disease was the ordinary form of ague, readily yielding to treatment, and it did not spread to any very serious extent.

Dysentery was not known to exist in an epidemic form in the Western Province, but it prevailed in some districts of the Southern Province although to a much less extent than in 1874. From the Central Province too which enjoyed an immunity from dysentery and ague in an epidemic form for many years, both were reported as prevailing to an unusual extent in some of the districts.

The admissions for "Parangi" into the hospitals continue on the increase, showing that this class of patients is more and more appreciating European treatment.

The restoration of the ancient tanks in the wilds of the North Central and North-western Provinces to which the Government is now paying so much attention, the opening of new roads, and sinking of wells to give a good supply of water in the villages where water is scarce, will doubtless be followed by a permanent amelioration of the condition of the poor villagers who suffer from this loathsome disease.

The cholera which prevailed during 1876 was strictly speaking a continuation of the epidemic of 1875.

The total number of cases registered in Colombo during 1876 amounted to 461, of which 316 or 68·54 per cent. of the attacks are put down as fatal. These figures show that the disease was less prevalent in Colombo during 1876 than in 1875, when the number of cases and deaths amounted to 721 and 421 respectively.

Peleyagodde and Sedawaste.—To these places the disease was introduced from Colombo, and 38 cases with 30 deaths in the former, and 44 cases with 21 deaths in the latter, were registered.

In Panaduré only three cases were reported, one in March which recovered, and two in November, both fatal.

Twenty-one cases with 14 deaths were registered in Negombo. The first case occurred on the 30th of March and the last case on the 20th August.

In Ratnapura a case, which recovered, was reported to have occurred in a Malabar on the 21st April. Another case occurred in a Sinhalese, at Hedellena on the 23rd October. No further cases were reported until the 17th of December, when a case occurred at Tirwanekettiya, two miles north-east of Ratnapura.

This was followed by 10 other cases. Altogether 13 cases with 10 deaths were reported by the medical officer.

Seven cases with four deaths among the residents at Balangodde were registered by the medical officer stationed there in charge of pioneers.

In all 590 cases of whom 400 or 67·79 per cent. died were registered in the Western Province against 1,065 cases and 591 deaths in 1875.

Between the 24th November and 3rd December seven cases occurred at Kurunégala, of which only one recovered.

Seventeen cases occurred at Puttalam with nine deaths. To this place the disease is said to have been imported by some pilgrims returning from Madua Church, who evidently contracted the infection on the road. It first broke out among them in a place called Chenakudi Erippo, about a mile and a half from Puttalam. Prompt measures were adopted by the medical officer then stationed there and the Assistant Government Agent, and the disease was checked.

Four fatal cases were reported by the Sub-Assistant Colonial Surgeon stationed at Chilaw; the first two were in pilgrims also returning from the Madua Church, and the other two were in residents. The number of cases reported in the North-western Province amounted to 28 and the number of casualties to 19.

The district of Matara was severely visited. A case was reported in a Malay family at Kotuagoda on the 5th December which proved fatal. Two days afterwards three cases were reported at Karawe and Ginigasmulle, all of which succumbed after a very brief illness. The next day more than eight cases were reported. From Karawe and Ginigasmulle it spread to Bandattara, Pamburane, Gundera, Dondera, Nupé, &c., and its progress was so rapid that between the 5th and 27th December, a period of only 22 days, no less than 102 cases were registered with 83 deaths, and at the end of the year the disease was still raging. The insanitary condition of the villages about Matara favoured the spread of the disease and resisted the efforts made to check it.

On the 15th December a fatal case occurred at Galle in China Garden in a member of the family in whom the disease appeared first at Matara and who had since fled to Galle.

The disease was about four times introduced into the town of Galle, but on every occasion the efforts made to stamp it out were successful.

In Hambantota 12 cases were reported, half of which died.

Between the 20th and 23rd December, nine deaths occurred out of 10 cases in Tangalla.

The total number of cases registered in the Southern Province amounted to 134, out of which 80 per cent. or 108 cases died.

In the Jaffna district at the close of 1875, 70 cases were reported to have been under treatment. During 1876, 1,630 cases were registered, making a total of 1,700; of these 800 recovered, 826 died, and 74 were remaining at the end of the year.

CEYLON.

In Mannar, 116 cases occurred with 66 deaths; the disease commenced in February and continued until August, and in December it broke out afresh.

In Vankalai and Pesalai the number of cases registered amounted to 241, of which 123 died, 99 recovered, and 19 were reported to be remaining at the end of December.

In Vavonia Vilankulam 41 cases with 26 deaths were registered by the medical officer.

Eighteen cases with 12 deaths were reported from Mullaitivoe.

These cases occurred in August, and since the 23rd of that month no fresh cases were reported.

The several medical practitioners stationed along the Mannar Madawatchiya Road reported 265 cases with 188 deaths. The majority of the cases occurring in incoming coolies.

In the whole Northern Province a total of 2,381 cases were registered, of which 1,241 died, showing a proportion of 52·12 per cent. to the cases, as against 1,327 cases and 697 deaths, or a mortality of 52·52 to the number of attacks in 1875.

The town and neighbourhood of Kandy suffered less in 1876 than in 1875, the number of cases and deaths reported being 64 and 52 against 101 and 81 in the previous year.

In Gampola, where only one fatal case was reported in 1875, 17 cases, of which 12 proved fatal, were reported.

The returns furnished by the medical officer show that the number of cases in the Matale district amounted to 176, and the deaths to 126. This district was more severely visited in 1875, when the number of cases and deaths amounted to 256 and 155 respectively.

In Badulla 35 cases with 26 deaths were reported by the medical officer.

From the district of Dambulla 130 deaths were reported out of 223 cases. This district suffered more severely in 1876 than in the previous year.

In the district of Nuwara Eliya, which was free from cholera in the previous year, 24 cases with 18 deaths were registered.

Five cases with three deaths were reported from Maskeliya.

The total number of cases registered by the medical officers in the Central Province amounted to 544 with 367 deaths against 509 cases and 332 deaths in 1875.

In the district of Anuradhapura, which includes Maradankadewela, Kekerawe, &c., a total of 154 cases and 105 deaths, and in the Mehintelle district 364 cases with 217 deaths were registered, the total cases and deaths in the North Central Province noted down by the medical officers being 518 and 322 respectively, showing an increase of 256 over the number of cases and 175 over the number of deaths in 1875.

The Eastern Province, as in the previous year, enjoyed a perfect immunity from epidemic disease.

The total number of cases of cholera registered by the medical officers in the whole Island during 1876 amounted to 4,195 and

the deaths to 2,457, showing a ratio of 58·56 per cent. to the number of attacks. The following table shows the total number of cases and deaths, separating them into Tamils and other races :—

Races.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Number of Cases.
Tamils - - -	3,360	1,893	56·33
Mixed races - -	835	564	67·54
Total - -	4,195	2,457	58·56

The annexed table shows the number of cases treated in out-door dispensaries during the year :—

Dispensaries.	Number treated.
Western Province.	
Colombo, Pettah - -	4,446
Maradana - - -	3,492
Panadure - - -	1,683
Kalutara - - -	1,483
Mahara - - -	333
Negombo - - -	1,071
Avisawella - - -	738
Ratnapura - - -	1,165
Kegalla - - -	425
	14,836
North-western Province.	
Kurunégala - - -	9,856
Puttalam - - -	1,206
Chilaw - - -	975
Kalpitiya - - -	708
	12,745
Southern Province.	
Galle - - - -	3,916
Matara - - -	486
Hambantota - -	894
Tangalla - - -	847
Balapitemodera - -	194
	6,337
Northern Province.	
Jaffna - - -	534
Point Pedro - - -	323
Mannar - - -	558
Vankalai and Pesalai -	745
Northern Province—cont.	
Mullativoe - - -	323
Kaits - - - -	141
Chavagachari - - -	561
Elephant Pass - -	93
Puliadierakkum - -	36
Vavoniyavilankulam - -	1,538
	4,852
Eastern Province.	
Batticalva - - -	2,683
Trincomalie - - -	2,027
	4,710
Central Province.	
Kandy - - -	140
Gampola - - -	1,022
Matale - - -	560
Badulla - - -	1,740
Nuwara Eliya - -	566
Dambulla - - -	315
	4,343
North Central Province.	
Anuradhapura - -	1,560
Mihintale - - -	814
	2,374
Grand Total -	50,197

CEYLON.

The steady increase in the number of admissions into the hospitals will be seen from the following comparative statement for the years 1869 to 1876 :—

Year.	Number treated.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Number treated.
1869	7,890	1,077	13·65
1870	8,388	941	11·21
1871	8,916	962	10·78
1872	11,117	1,336	12·01
1873	12,553	1,279	10·18
1874	14,047	1,454	10·35
1875	14,258	1,546	10·84
1876	17,005	1,712	10·06

The following table exhibits the number of cases treated under the several classes of disease during the years 1875 and 1876 :—

Diseases.	1875.			1876.		
	Total Number treated.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Number treated.	Total Number treated.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Number treated.
Fevers - -	1,524	57	3·74	2,437	58	2·37
Eruptive fevers -	55	—	—	52	2	3·84
Diseases of the lungs - -	452	90	19·91	519	77	14·06
Diseases of the liver and spleen -	244	18	7·37	217	16	7·37
Diseases of the stomach and bowels	1,941	694	35·75	2,320	818	35·25
Diseases of the brain and nervous system - -	476	61	12·81	523	51	9·75
Epidemic cholera -	43	28	65·11	47	35	74·46
Dropsies - -	611	232	39·97	873	236	27·03
Rheumatic affections - -	730	9	1·23	752	4	·53
Venereal affections and diseases of the genital organs -	2,015	9	·39	1,752	10	·57
Abscesses and ulcers	1,786	74	4·14	2,018	52	2·57
Wounds and injuries	1,093	48	4·39	1,255	56	4·46
Diseases of the eye -	132	3	2·27	155	56	—
Diseases of the skin	1,091	27	2·47	1,738	34	1·95
Other diseases -	2,065	196	9·49	2,348	263	11·02
Total -	14,258	1,546	10·84	17,005	1,712	10·06

In regard to the high rate of mortality amongst the Malabar coolies admitted into hospital the Principal Civil Medical Officer submits the following observations :—

"The more acquainted I become with the treatment of these coolies, and the more inquiries I have made, the more confirmed

I am in the belief that this state of things is mainly attributable to the aversion of the Malabar coolie to hospital treatment and delay on the part of those in charge in sending him there; consequently he does not receive medical aid at a time when it would be most useful, so he often reaches our hospital simply to die, and this state of things is alike unfair and unsatisfactory to the coolie, the medical officer, and the character of the hospital, the latter becoming in the eyes of the former simply a mortuary instead of a place for treating disease.

"The mortality in hospital is dependent in a great measure on the physical condition of the patients previous to admission, and on the stage of disease at which hospital treatment is sought. An institution which constantly receives a large accession of unhealthy members must necessarily suffer from a higher rate of mortality than one which admits principally patients in a comparatively good physical state. A comparison of the mortality in the hospitals of the planting and non-planting districts, the former receiving Malabars often in the last stage of destitution and disease, the latter mixed races in addition who seek hospital relief at an earlier stage, fully bears out the correctness of this view.

"From returns which have been prepared by the medical officers of the department in charge of Civil hospitals where estate coolies are treated, I have compiled the following tables, which fully justify the preceding statements; the first shows the duration of illness previous to admission, and the second the number of days under treatment previous to death:--

TABLE showing the DURATION of ILLNESS previous to ADMISSION into HOSPITAL of the ESTATE COOLIES who died during 1876.

Period.	Kandy.	Matale.	Gampola.	Badulla.	Nuwara Eliya.	Kurunegala.	Matara.	Total.
1 day and under 5 days - - -	2	—	1	3	2	—	—	8
5 days and under 10 days - -	1	2	—	2	4	—	—	9
10 days and under 15 days - -	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	4
15 days and under 20 days - -	—	3	—	3	1	—	—	7
20 days and under 25 days - -	2	3	—	3	1	1	—	10
25 days and under 30 days - -	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
30 days and above - - -	37	33	29	63	7	3	11	183
Total - -	42	53	30	75	16	4	11	231

CEYLON.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of DAYS in HOSPITAL of the ESTATE COOLIES who died during 1876.

Period.	Kandy.	Matale.	Gampola.	Badulla.	Nuwara Eliya.	Kurunegala.	Matara.	Total.
1 day and under 5 days - - -	9	17	10	23	11	1	—	71
5 days and under 10 days - -	14	18	8	15	3	2	4	64
10 days and under 15 days - -	9	6	5	11	—	1	3	35
15 days and under 20 days - -	2	1	1	5	—	—	—	9
20 days and under 25 days - -	2	5	1	6	—	—	—	14
25 days and under 30 days - -	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	7
30 days and above - - -	6	3	3	14	1	—	4	31
Total - -	42	53	30	75	16	4	11	231

"I am of opinion, as I stated in a letter I addressed to Government, No. 748, of the 22nd November 1876, that all estate coolies should be treated on the estates or in the district hospitals, and not in our Civil hospitals, at least in districts proclaimed under the 'Medical Wants Ordinance.'

"Besides coolies from estates there is another class of Malabars that I think should properly seek admission into the district hospitals instead of the Civil hospitals, I mean those half-starved immigrant labourers loitering about in pursuit of employment on coffee estates and those that are just discharged from employment and journeying homewards or moving to some other estate. If this is so arranged, and the estate Malabar element eliminated from our hospitals, the mortality in them will at once be reduced and they can then compare most favourably with any similar institutions in the East."

The number of cases treated in the convict hospitals is shown in the annexed table, together with the number of deaths and the rate of mortality. The corresponding figures for the previous nine years are added for purposes of comparison :—

Years.	Total Number treated.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Number treated.
1867	4,220	179	4·24
1868	3,412	83	2·43
1869	2,064	58	2·81
1870	1,976	90	4·55
1871	1,953	133	6·08
1872	2,930	148	5·05
1873	2,630	69	1·90
1874	3,454	66	1·91
1875	3,930	109	2·77
1876	3,678	65	1·76

Education.

The amount expended on education in 1876 was Rs. 380,914 or Rs. 28,065 in excess of the expenditure for 1875. 30 new Government schools were opened during the year and five closed, the number on 31st December being 301 attended by 15,115 pupils, being an increase of 2,339 over the attendance for the previous year.

The grant-in-aid schools numbered 697 and 45,422 pupils as against 654 schools and 41,343 pupils in 1875.

The classification of the Government Schools with the number of pupils and the daily average attendance is shown in the following table :—

Schools.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children.	Average daily Attendance.
English boys' schools - - -	12	970	879
Anglo-vernacular boys' schools -	32	1,622	1,290
Vernacular boys' schools - -	212	10,687	7,121
English girls' schools - - -	4	281	231
Anglo-vernacular girls' schools -	7	220	161
Vernacular girls' schools - -	34	1,335	930
Total - - -	301	15,115	10,612

The cost of the education in the several classes of schools was in—

	Cost per head to Government.
English boys' schools - -	Rs. 56·99
Anglo-vernacular boys' schools -	13·84
Vernacular boys' schools - -	6·59
English girls' schools - - -	55·17
Anglo-vernacular girls' schools	21·89
Vernacular girls' schools - -	6·10

The annexed tables exhibit a classification of the grants in aid paid by Government and the amounts earned bv the several missions during the year.

—	Number of Schools.	Number of Children examined.	Total Number of Children on List.	Amount of Grant.	Average per head of Children examined.	Average per head of total Number in the School.
				Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
English - -	61	{ 3,148 } *1,415	5,765	31,920 47†	10 13	5 53
Anglo-vernacular -	84	2,337	5,002	14,211 35	6 08	2 84
Vernacular - -	521	14,702	32,705	80,515 15	5 47	2 46

* Number examined in vernacular literature.
† This amount includes the grants paid for passes in vernacular literature.

----	English.	Anglo-Vernacular.	Vernacular.	C. Schools.	Total.	Amount of Grants.
						Rs. cts.
American - -	1	14	102	9	126	21,349 92
Baptist - -	1	6	24	0	31	4,291 35
Church of England, C.M.S. - -	7	29	96	14	146	18,625 33
Church of England, S.P.G. - -	14	8	40	8	70	13,982 43
Presbyterian -	1	0	2	0	3	725 05
Private - -	3	2	20	0	25	6,576 17
Roman Catholic -	22	3	131	0	156	41,012 49
Wesleyan - -	12	22	106	0	140	22,536 41
Total -	61	84	521	31	697	129,099 15

Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of the Colony for the years 1821 to 1876 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1875 and 1876.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. N. BIRCH.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of CEYLON, from the Year 1867 to 1876, inclusive.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Military.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Estimated Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Land Sales.		Revenue.	Expenditure.
							Schools.	Number of Scholars.		Extent.	Amount realized, including Fees.		
									Acres.	Acres.	£	£	£
1867	24,700	2,093,777	2,410	42,788	24,433	44,224	874	33,379	1,550,664	44,019	45,257	969,936	[2] 927,932
1868		2,081,395	2,467	55,058	14,346	56,138	716	26,807	1,532,710	24,492	38,514	925,266	[3] 974,950
1869		2,105,288	2,408	54,281	17,205	46,801	915	34,617	1,424,069	35,823	57,964	946,495	[4] 881,373
1870		2,128,884	2,116	63,111	17,150	40,230	978	41,490	1,526,583	29,560	57,206	1,091,606	[5] 1,026,871
1871		2,405,287	—	68,856	11,178	46,803	1,421	47,068	1,402,556	25,227	61,331	1,121,679	[6] 1,064,184
1872		2,405,287	2,617	69,573	9,605	53,337	1,302	54,650	1,419,459	19,829	69,563	1,174,698	[7] 1,062,993
1873		2,323,760	1,456	68,605	22,458	46,732	1,424	66,424	[1] 1,253,702	21,656	103,089	1,290,918	[8] 1,176,258
1874		2,418,741	1,365	73,062	23,953	49,754	1,458	66,385	1,550,901	32,089	100,040	1,241,558	[9] 1,110,180
1875		2,459,542	1,716	67,285	13,837	53,363	1,570	73,020	[1] 1,260,230	17,609	59,974	1,354,123	[10] 1,220,180
1876		2,556,777	1,611	73,118	13,690	59,446	1,725	73,789	1,300,445	25,632	104,959	1,375,888	[11] 1,276,930

(*continued.*)

Total Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.						Imports.			Exports.			Year.
From and to United Kingdom.	From and to other Countries.	Total.	British, belonging to		Foreign.	From the United Kingdom.	From other Countries.	Total.	To the United Kingdom.	To other Countries.	Total.	
			United Kingdom.	The Colonies.								
Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	
126,754	1,070,011	1,196,765	579,090	476,606	141,069	1,350,312	3,154,027	4,504,339	2,556,188	974,036	3,530,224	1867
163,999	1,082,615	1,246,614	656,812	414,544	175,258	1,264,470	3,138,707	4,403,177	2,793,313	993,409	3,786,722	1868
112,971	1,100,855	1,213,826	697,987	369,204	146,635	1,175,758	3,459,265	4,635,023	2,652,781	978,284	3,631,065	1869
154,963	1,268,982	1,423,945	779,777	445,565	198,603	1,531,491	3,102,806	4,634,297	2,907,146	896,585	3,803,731	1870
268,182	1,370,215	1,638,397	775,465	671,800	191,132	1,462,050	3,335,902	4,797,952	2,633,169	1,001,684	3,634,853	1871
263,369	1,552,818	1,816,187	707,550	870,147	238,490	1,489,359	3,680,165	5,169,524	2,139,690	999,370	3,139,060	1872
280,140	1,714,254	1,994,394	1,157,848	556,395	280,151	1,534,852	4,039,506	5,574,538	4,056,138	1,383,453	5,439,591	1873
287,785	1,727,373	2,015,158	1,158,294	536,146	320,718	1,498,956	3,837,163	5,336,119	2,989,237	1,405,190	4,394,427	1874
361,109	1,855,294	2,216,403	1,292,906	576,550	346,947	1,427,115	3,944,125	5,361,240	3,709,012	1,666,398	5,375,410	1875
372,097	1,952,427	2,324,524	1,444,278	557,570	322,676	1,642,021	3,920,863	5,562,884	2,979,254	1,530,341	4,509,595	1876

NOTE.—The figures under the heads population, births, marriages, deaths (exclusive of those for 1871, when a census was taken), schools, cultivation, are only approximative.

NOTE.—The great difference in value of exports for 1873 as compared with 1871 and 1872, arises from the average value of coffee during 1873 in the local market previous to shipment being taken at 4*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. for plantation and 4*l.* per cwt. for native, instead of 2*l.* 14*s.* and 2*l.* as heretofore.

The money figures from 1874 have been converted from rupees to pounds sterling at 1*s.* 10½*d.* to the rupee.

[1] Exclusive of the estimated average of cultivated land in the district of Kégalla, Western Province.

[2] This is exclusive of an expenditure of 96,393*l.*, charged against surplus funds and against balances.

[3] Do. do. 79,021*l.* do. do.

[4] Do. do. 79,431*l.* do. do.

[5] Do. do. 21,475*l.* do. do.

[6] Do. do. 61,139*l.* do. do.

[7] Do. do. 122,567*l.* do. do.

[8] Do. do. 63,729*l.* do. do.

[9] Do. do. 55,300*l.* do. do.

[10] Do. do. 168,674*l.* do. do.

[11] Do. do. 84,556*l.* do. do.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 16.

The Right Hon. Sir W. H. GREGORY, K.C.M.G., to The EARL of CARNARVON.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
May 8, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's Despatch of 7th ultimo, inquiring into the circumstances of the discovery of supposed valuable antiquities in the neighbourhood of Kurunegala.

2. I am happy to say that I believe all the antiquities of any interest have been rescued by the energy of Mr. Saunders, Acting Government Agent, from spoliation. They are nine sitting figures of Buddha of different sizes, the highest about six inches. The exterior of the figures is of thin gold plate, the interior of clay. They are now in the Colombo Museum, which is every day receiving valuable accessions of objects of early Sinhalese art.

3. Every effort is being made by the Government to rescue all valuable objects of gold and silver from the melting pot. Notices are affixed in public places in the different provinces that the full value of such articles will be given to the legitimate claimant.

4. It is difficult to overcome the suspicion that Government means to lay a strong hand on these articles, and to seize them without compensation, but it is to be hoped that after a few instances of full payment of value the natives will see that Government is a better customer than the bazaar dealers.

5. I subjoin herewith Mr. Saunders' account of the finding of these images with plans to illustrate the place in which they are buried.

6. I may add that they were found on the site of one of the earliest cities in Ceylon, which is said to have been in existence 500 B.C.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. GREGORY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

From the GOVERNMENT AGENT, North-western Province, to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Kurunégala, January 13, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that for some weeks past there has been a rumour current that there were large treasures buried somewhere in the Crown jungles now growing on the site of the old city of Pandawewa. Just before Christmas

a Malay man applied to me for permission to search for treasure on condition of receiving one-half of what he found. I had reason to suppose that he had already assured himself of success, and wishing to place an effective guard on his operations when he began to dig, I referred the matter to the Ratamahatmeya, and desired the petitioner to wait until after the holidays.

During my absence at Christmas it seems that a large number of persons assembled, dug the spot where the treasure was supposed to be, and carried off some say a large quantity and some only a small quantity. I have instituted a strict inquiry and J.P. proceedings, and have recovered some of the treasure consisting of a gold Karandume, a gold Budha, some small gems, and some curious brass ware; but most of the thieves have absconded, and I believe I have only recovered a small portion of the booty. I am, however, informed that the thieves only penetrated into one chamber of this treasure vault, and that there is reason to suppose a large quantity of treasure is still to be found.

I purpose, therefore, to proceed to the spot on Sunday next and make proper search.

I trust you will approve of my spending a small sum of money, if necessary, in this investigation.

The city of Panduwas Nuwara was a principal city of Ceylon some 2,300 years ago. The articles I have already recovered are evidently of great antiquity, but having been ill-treated and broken by the thieves are almost useless. I purpose to make a careful search so as not to injure the articles which may still be left, and I shall report the result of my search without delay to you.

There is a book extant which purports to give the contents of the several vaults wherein treasure has been buried by the ancient kings of the country; and the following extract states what treasures are supposed to be buried on the spot now discovered:—

EXTRACT from a COPY of a book called "WADULA."

"In the Kotawehera of Pandawewa Nuwara Kele there are nine Kiernnies of Waragam, twelve gems, twenty-four relics, one gold shrine, a little pearls, and some Namaguna beads. These are the riches offered to the Wehera of King Jissa Maha."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. SAUNDERS.

I beg to annex an extract from a Sinhalese history of Ceylon relative to the city of Panduwas, furnished to me by the Kachcheri Mudaliyar, Ni J. Jayetilleke:—

"Panduwas Nuwara is said to be the oldest city founded in Ceylon except Tammanua Nuwara, which was founded by Wifayo, the first King of Ceylon.

"This city Panduwas Nuwara was originally founded by Upatissa, Prime Minister of Wifayo, B.C. 505, and was called

after him. He reigned in it only for one year as a sub-king, and gave it up to Panduwas, the nephew of Wifayo, on his landing in Ceylon, he himself moving to Jissawe which is not far from Panduwas Nuwara. The city was, after the assumption of its government by Panduwas, called after him, and to this day it is known as such. He reigned thirty years improving and embellishing it; his son Abhayo succeeded him at his death B.C. 474. Abhayo reigned twenty years most religiously and with every virtue until he was interrupted by the civil wars then raging between his brothers and his nephew Pandukabhayo, and which lasted for fourteen years, when he threw up the government and retired to Paramakanda, in the Demala Pattu, which is by tradition known as the place where he ended his life, leading a religious life.

"After the cessation of the civil wars Pandukabhayo, having obtained victory over his uncles, established himself in his father-in-law's city Anuradhapura. In the interval Tisso, the brother of Abhayo and uncle of Pandukabhayo, held the kingdom of Panduwas, and it was during his reign that Kotawhera alias Tissamahawehera must have been erected about the year B.C. 454, as described in a book called 'Wadula'" (ඉදුල).

If these facts are to be admitted we may safely assert that the Karanduwa and the Pibine are 2,331 years old.

From the GOVERNMENT AGENT, North-western Province, to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Colombo.

SIR, Kurunegala, 24th January 1877.

ADVERTING to your letter No. 31, of the 19th inst., I have the honour to annex extract from my diary, showing what progress has been made in excavating the Dagoba referred to.

The relics that have been already discovered are, I believe, of a most interesting description. There can be no doubt of their very great antiquity, even should they not have been buried so far back as B.C. 500.

Mr. Smither has promised to furnish me with drawings of the chambers, and a description of the gold figures, and I purpose at an early date to bring them to Colombo, and lodge them in the museum.

A full account of everything recovered shall be furnished to you hereafter.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. SAUNDERS.

Copy of Diary Notes.

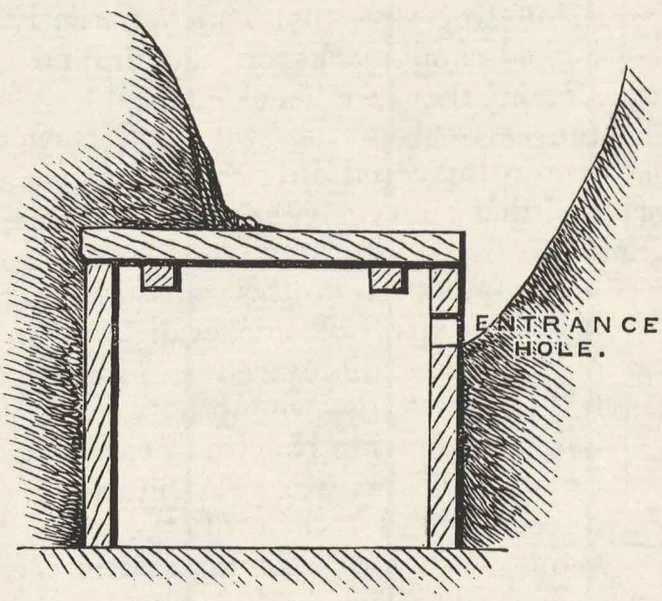
Sunday, 14th January 1877.—Mr. Penney, office assistant, having arrived from Colombo to day by morning train, I made arrangements to leave Kurunégala to inspect the Dágoba at Panduwas Nuwara which has been robbed by thieves. Left Kurunégala

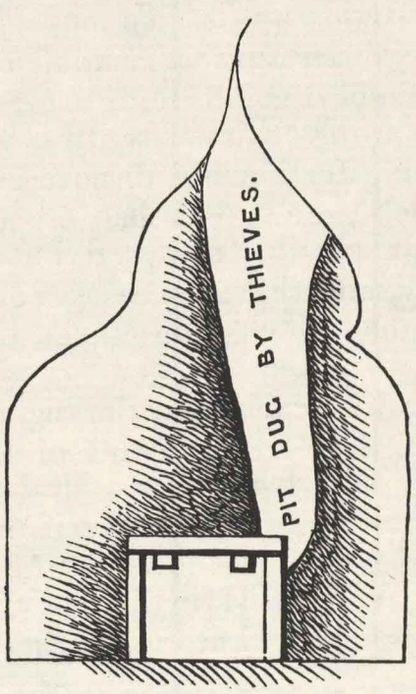
* No subsequent report received.

with Mr. Smither, Government architect, at 6 p.m., and slept at Wáriapola, 13 miles.

Monday, 15th January.—Drove to Hettipola, 12 miles. Inspected the Dágoba at the 23½ milepost on Chilaw road. Found the thieves had dug down through the top of the Dágoba, but not having taken a perpendicular shaft had entered the first chamber at the north-east end.

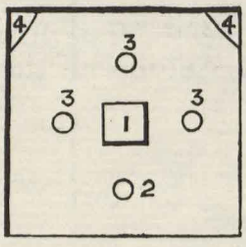
It is difficult to say whether this chamber was an empty vault, or was filled in with brickwork; I think it was filled in. The thieves hit off the second or lower chamber close to the east wall. This chamber was covered with stone slabs, and to avoid these the thieves had dug under the lop stone, and entering by a hole just large enough to admit a man had, it was presumed, taken all they could find in the chamber. It was unsafe to dig any further at the side lest the mass of brickwork above should fall, so it was determined to dig a proper pit and remove the upper stones of the

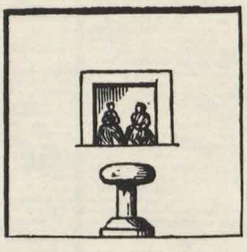




CEYLON.

lower chamber. I had brought with me an overseer and ten men, and having collected a number of villagers under the Ratewahatwaya to clear the jungle around, we set to work, the men worked very well, and at about 3 p.m. the stones were removed, and the chamber exposed to view. The floor of the chamber was paved, and was some 25 feet from the supposed top of Dágoba. It was about six feet square and six feet high (correct measurements were taken and plans made, which will be furnished hereafter). At first sight it appeared as if the chamber had been gutted by the thieves. The walls, which were lined with brick on edge, were covered with earth deposited by white ants or worms that had entered the crevices between the bricks; there was an inch or so of this earth adhering to the faces of the wall and in the angles of the wall. In the centre of the chamber were two bricks[1] evidently forming part of a stand on which the articles stolen had been deposited, and there was the stand of a lamp[2] or offering vase that had apparently been overlooked, and marks on the ground of the other stands[3] that had been removed. After removing the earth from the walls and corners, some old iron spear-heads were discovered in two of the corners,[4] but the iron was so corroded that on removing the earth the spear-heads fell to pieces, and the fragments only could be secured. A careful examination of the walls was then made, and in the centre of one wall a square niche or opening was discovered. This appeared to be full of earth thrown up by worms or white ants, but on removing the earth carefully with a small catty and knife, two gold figures of Budha were discovered. In each of the other three walls similar niches were found, and in each niche two figures of Budha in gold. The gold was very pure and bright, but in one case where the Budha was seated on a silver throne, the silver had become so oxidised that it crumbled away at the slightest touch, and very little of it could be preserved.





Careful search was made in the chamber until it was too dark to work any more, but nothing further was discovered.

The figures were not solid gold, but had apparently been moulded of clay and wax, or possibly of wood, but the interior had rotted or decayed away, and the gold cases were now filled with earth very similar to that which surrounded the walls and filled the niches.

The people were a good deal excited at the sight of the gold images, and the rumours of the large amount of treasure that had been taken from the chambers before our arrival were current. I made a few inquiries, and being satisfied myself that I had not recovered all the stolen property, I sent over for Mr. Ellis, J.P., who was working in the Wanno Hatpathu at Nikawerapya some 15 or 16 miles off, in order that he might conduct the J.P. inquiry.

Slept at Hittipola that night.

Tuesday, 16th January.—Up early and again inspected chamber and Dágoba. Dug a trench right across floor of the chamber and burrowed under walls, until I satisfied myself that we were at the very bottom and under the foundations. Inspected the village and the remains of the old city. Some of the ruins are of great interest; the temple and tank are worth inspection. There are several Dágobas all more or less buried or covered with earth. There was one about 100 yards from the one broken into by the thieves, and in order to satisfy myself of the amount of treasure usually put in these Dágobas, and to test in a way the accuracy of the statement regarding the contents of the robbed Dágoba, I determined after consultation with Messrs. Smither and Ellis to open this second Dágoba. It was, however, very much buried in earth, and the work appeared to be very laborious.

As Captain Woodword and Mr. Parker had arrived at Kurunegala to see me on urgent matters, and Mr. Young had returned to confer with Mr. Smither and me in Kurunegala town works, I felt obliged to leave the further prosecution of the work to Mr. Ellis, who whilst holding the J.P. investigation could also superintend the digging. I left late in the evening, and with Mr. Smither reached Kurunegala at about 9 p.m.

Thursday, 18th January.—Heard from Mr. Ellis reporting that the work was very difficult and was progressing but slowly. He sent in a sample of gems and a coin, and stated that they had got down to the first chamber, which was apparently full of earth, which contained the small gems sent.

The men were tired and he asked for fresh men.

I directed Mr. Vanderstraaten, superintendent of minor roads, to go out at once with another gang and to place himself under Mr. Ellis's orders. Sent out tools, baskets, sieves, powder, and fuse, &c.

Friday.—Mr. Ellis reports progress as being slow, only a few more stones found are said to be of value Rs. 50 offered for it. Lower chamber not yet reached.

Saturday.—I am obliged to go to Wenda for a Sansabawa meeting, and on Sunday and Monday I have engagements inspecting roads and claimed lands in that district. I must return for a land sale at the Kuchcheri on Tuesday, at end of week I hope again to visit Hittipola and report progress. Left for Wenda at 9 a.m. after inspecting works in Kurunegala with Messrs. Smither and Woodword, Young, and Case.

Reached Wenda at 11 a.m., meeting at 12 noon, meeting adjourned at 7.30 p.m. for Monday at 12 noon.

"True extract."

(Signed) J. R. SAUNDERS.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 17.

Governor SIR ARTHUR PHAYRE, K.C.S.I., C.B., to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Mauritius, July 19, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1876, together with my report thereon.

A report on the Seychelles Islands, dated the 31st March, from the Chief Civil Commissioner of that Dependency is also submitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. P. PHAYRE.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1876.

Taxation.

1. The alterations in taxes and rates during the year have been as follows:—

2. Under Ordinance 6 of 1876 the General Board of Health was empowered to fix rates for the monthly hire of stalls in district markets for sales of slaughtered cattle, and of live animals in the markets.

3. By Ordinance 14 of 1876 fees payable on the celebration of a marriage were reduced to one charge of 5*s*. Extended provision was made for exempting poor persons from payment of such fees.

4. By Ordinance 19 of 1876 provision was made for remitting costs for title deeds to poor tenants of Crown lands, and for fees on leases of Crown land the rent on which does not exceed 5*l*. sterling.

5. By Ordinance 24 of 1876 the law regulating trade between Mauritius and the Seychelles Islands was altered. The trade was treated as if passing to foreign countries, the customs tariff for imports and exports being made the same in both islands.

A separate provision was made for import duty on spirits imported into the Seychelles, and for excise duty on spirits distilled therein.

6. By Ordinance 27 of 1876 previous laws on fisheries and fishermen's licenses were amended and consolidated. The following additional duties were imposed:—

A half-yearly duty of 2*l.* 10*s.* by owners of Barachois for the right of selling fish.

An annual duty of 2*l.* for the right of keeping and maintaining an oyster or mussel bed.

Receipts and Expenditure.

7. The following table shows the receipts for the two past years omitting fractions. The receipts on account of the Seychelles Islands are not included:—

Heads of Receipt.	Average of Ten Years ending 31st December 1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£
1. Customs	207,178	235,987	241,529
2. Harbour dues	23,076	21,159	25,103
3. Land sales	7,234	802	766
4. Land revenue	3,778	4,969	4,229
5. Rents, exclusive of land	297	2,213	1,013
6. Transfers, registrations, and mortgage dues	24,892	19,631	26,227
7. Licenses and permits	168,620	192,213	197,188
8. Stamps	9,533	11,413	11,060
9. Taxes	13,690	14,329	13,271
10. Postage	5,541	5,057	5,468
11. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	14,192	12,823	12,629
12. Fees of office	7,968	5,729	5,467
13. Forests	-	-	332
14. Sale of Government property	1,577	2,023	4,964
15. Reimbursements	23,278	12,562	15,654
16. Miscellaneous receipts	4,720	9,895	12,174
17. Interest	20,426	23,374	20,689
18. Special receipts	265	365	125
19. Board of Health*	50	-	1,738
20. Railway traffic	93,256	118,349	132,480
Total	629,581	692,893	732,106

The rate of receipt per head of population in 1876 was 2*l.* 2*s.* 3¾*d.* against 2*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.* in 1875.

8. The increase is due mainly to the larger sugar crop whereby exports were augmented, and every industry benefitted. This influences also the railway traffic. But a portion of the increase is due to the extension of the revenue year from the 26th of December, on which date the accounts used to be closed, up to the 31st.

9. The expenditure for the two last years is shown in the following table:—

* Returned separately for the first time in 1874.

Heads of Expenditure.	Average of Ten Years ending 31st December 1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£
1. Establishments, fixed and temporary, with allowances	234,943	225,839	221,624
2. Pensions	14,659	14,029	14,105
3. Revenue services	9,216	12,419	7,851
4. Administration of justice	8,102	11,207	8,060
5. Ecclesiastical	2,365	2,727	4,257
6. Charitable allowances	137	117	194
7. Education	5,821	6,595	6,450
8. Hospitals	9,900	8,506	6,413
9. Police and gaols	6,136	8,055	6,132*
10. Gaols*	-	-	406
11. Rent	5,630	6,427	6,240
12. Transport	2,323	6,523	7,282
13. Mails	16,213	5,437	5,401
14. Works and buildings	18,367	18,375	11,339
15. Roads and bridges	16,850	18,457	14,678
16. Forests	—	—	—
17. Miscellaneous services	15,533	89,783	16,245
18. Interest	13,166	24,487	33,713
19. Civil stores	32,696	24,335	21,802
20. Military contribution	33,094	20,289	22,385
21. Quays, &c.	12,062	14,044	9,321
22. Immigration	15,303	4,210	3,039
23. Drawback and refund of duties	5,683	6,824	2,238
24. Quarantine	550	785	526
25. Debenture debt	82,092	81,388	126,373
26. Railway working department	78,505	93,144	92,503
27. General Board of Health†	2,240	42,510	34,736
28. Poor Law Department‡	-	29,324	36,226
Total	641,586	775,836	719,539

The rate of expenditure per head of population in 1876 was 2*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* against 2*l.* 5*s.* 0¼*d.* in 1875.

10. The local expenditure has been reduced as far as possible. The payments for interest and debenture debt, show an increase of 54,000*l.* over the charges of those items for the previous year. This resulted from higher rates of premium on remittances, and increased payments due on debenture debt. But nearly every item of expenditure shows a diminution as compared with the previous year.

Local Revenues.

11. The actual revenue of the municipal corporation of Port Louis during 1876 amounted to 37,532*l.*, the actual expenditure to 37,629*l.* There remained, however, debts outstanding for the current year to the amount of 1,612*l.* The average revenue during the preceding five years amounted to 40,145*l.*, and the average expenditure during the same period to 38,272*l.*

* Exclusive of gaols.

† Returned separately in 1874.

‡ Returned separately in 1875.

12. The total debt of the corporation amounted to 133,258*l.*, in place of 133,088*l.* No new loans have been made, but the arrears of debt to sundry creditors have slightly increased.

13. Debentures not yet due to the extent of 120*l.* were purchased by the corporation during the year. The sum of 10,420*l.* has been deposited in the local bank as a sinking fund to meet the debentures as they become due. But it does not seem likely that the corporation will be able to pay off what is due in the next 12 years, viz., 129,900*l.*, without having recourse to further loans to enable it to do so.

Assets and Liabilities.

Commissioners of Currency.

14. The balance in favour of the Commissioners of Currency at the end of 1876 amounted to 17,165*l.* This balance has risen in consequence of the Depreciation Fund created under Ordinance 10 of 1864, whereby a certain portion of the investment of the Commissioners was carried to the account of the Commissioners instead of to the general revenue of the Colony.

15. During the year under review the currency of the Colony has been changed, and on 17th November rupees were substituted for sterling. Up to the 31st December new notes to the amount of 50,750*l.* (Rs. 507,500) had been issued, while 7,582*l.* of the old notes still remained in the hands of the public.

Savings Bank.

16. The total amount due to depositors, including interest, up to the end of 1875 amounted to 282,549*l.* Of the assets 12,715*l.* are invested in real property in the Colony, 70,221*l.* are invested in England, 100,000*l.* are in deposit in the local banks, and the remainder in cash balances in the local banks and with the cashier of the Savings Bank.

Curatelle.

17. The total liabilities of the Curatelle amount to 24,987*l.*, of which 9,754*l.* is secured on real property in the Colony, and the remainder is in a cash balance in the local banks.

Treasury proper.

(Exclusive of the foregoing and Railway Debentures Debt.)

18. The balance of assets over liabilities of the Treasury proper appeared on the 31st December 1876 to be 43,230*l.*, and at the end of the preceding year the excess appeared to be 21,637*l.*

19. This amount has been increased partly owing to an excess of revenue over expenditure during the year 1876, and by striking off the liabilities of a large portion of the deposit of suitors' moneys and redemption tax amounting to 5,289*l.*, which has been carried over to revenue.

MAURITIUS.

20. The apparent balance at the end of 1876 ought, however, to be reduced by striking out an advance made to the Police Reward Fund amounting to 3,248*l.*, and to the Seychelles Roads amounting to 4,086*l.*, both sums having been since written off by votes of the Council of Government.

21. The true assets, therefore, on the 31st December 1876 may be set down at 35,896*l.*, in place of 16,000*l.*, at the beginning of the year.

Military Expenditure.

22. The contribution towards military expenditure for the year amounted to 22,386*l.* The number of troops in the Colony during the last month of the year was :—

Staff, including officers and medical department -	24
Artillery, officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners - - - - -	100
Infantry, officers, non-commissioned officers and privates - - - - -	322
Total - -	446

Establishments.

23. The following table shows the amount paid for salaries, allowances, and contingencies during each year for the ten years ending with 1876. The annual saving in that period on the payment for the last year amounts to 19,000*l.*

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	£	£	£
1867 - -	212,666	27,976	240,642
1868 - -	208,242	27,973	236,215
1869 - -	204,768	25,052	229,820
1870 - -	202,411	27,545	229,956
1871 - -	204,003	27,217	231,220
1872 - -	205,144	24,603	229,747
1873 - -	204,981	23,611	228,592
1874 - -	204,750	24,114	228,864
1875 - -	202,945	22,894	225,839
1876 - -	198,848	22,776	221,624

24. The establishments of the Seychelles Islands are not included.

Criminal Justice.

25. The number of offences which came under the notice of the police or the magistrates during 1876 was less than in any of the three preceding years :—

—	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Offences known to the police or magistrates -	37,708	44,306	44,244	35,003

26. The number of persons prosecuted on account of their offences in 1876 was less by 1,513 than in 1875, nevertheless the number in 1876 was above the average (31,408) of the corresponding numbers in the three preceding years :—

——	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Persons prosecuted -	28,641	32,877	35,707	34,193

27. The disproportion which existed in former years between the number of offences known to have been committed and the number of persons brought to justice was much reduced in 1876 :—

——	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Offences known - -	37,708	44,306	44,244	35,002
Persons prosecuted -	28,641	32,877	35,707	34,193
Difference -	9,067	11,429	8,537	1,809

28. The following table shows the number of persons brought before the several courts of the Colony during the year, with the result :—

——	Number prosecuted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.
Supreme court - - - -	75	5	70
District courts - - - -	21,211	7,188	14,023
Stipendiary courts - - -	12,907	3,073	9,834
Totals - - -	34,193	10,266	23,927

29. The following table shows in a broad classification the offences tried in the district courts in 1876, with the results obtained :—

PERSONS tried in District Courts in 1876.

——	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Prœdial Larceny.	Offences against Property other than Malicious Injuries to Property or Prœdial Larceny.	Offences against the Law relating to Revenue, Highway, Health, and other Laws relating to the Social Economy of the Colony.	Other Offences.
Convictions -	920	10	490	1,015	5,767	5,821
Acquittals -	1,975	13	276	1,523	2,617	784
Total -	2,895	23	766	2,538	8,384	6,605

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30. In the Stipendiary Courts the offences charged and the results were as follows:—

Offences.	Number of Persons and how disposed of.			
	Acquitted and Discharged.		Convicted.	Total Persons.
	From Want of Evidence.	On Merits.		
1. Assault - - - -	103	103	79	285
2. Nonpayment of wages - -	342	461	4,560	5,363
3. Non-delivery of rations - -	99	55	441	595
4. Infraction of law on hospitals -	47	62	3	112
5. Neglect of work - -	142	37	474	653
6. Unlawful absence - -	570	64	2,925	3,559
7. Desertion and vagrancy -	500	123	1,493	2,116
8. Other offences - - -	230	235	901	1,366
Total - -	2,033	1,140	10,876	14,049

Trade.

31. The value of imports and exports for 1875 and for 1876 was as follows:—

——	1876.	1875.	In 1876.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
IMPORTS.	£	£	£	£
Merchandise -	1,806,050	1,820,906	—	14,856
Specie - -	478,163	373,918	104,245	—
EXPORTS.				
Merchandise -	3,051,169	2,286,456	764,713	—
Specie - -	222,653	235,643	—	12,990
Grand total -	5,558,035	4,716,923	868,958	27,846
	Net increase in 1876 = £841,112.			

32. In addition to the specie entered in the above table, Indian immigrants returning to their country carried with them specie to the value of 23,161*l.*

33. The quantity and value of sugar, being home produce, exported during five years were as follows:—

Years.	Tons.	Value.	Rate per Cwt.
		£	£ s. d.
1872 - -	122,288	2,817,221	1 2 2½
1873 - -	111,718	2,882,590	1 4 11
1874 - -	93,388	2,293,214	1 3 8
1875 - -	87,449	1,939,378	1 2 2½
1876 - -	115,801	2,698,060	1 2 6

NOTE.—These rates are calculated on the declared value of the sugar exported, not on the market rates.

34. The value of the principal articles of export of home produce other than sugar during the same period was :—

Articles.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£	£	£
Vanilla - -	10,560	12,216	29,951	22,134	26,498
Aloe fibre - -	4,634	4,416	4,403	3,115	7,216
Cocoa-nut oil - -	1,071	9,505	14,297	25,999	17,082
Rum - - -	39,664	47,082	49,268	46,292	51,099

Government Reformatory.

35. The number of boys actually present at the reformatory on the 31st December 1876 was 140, against 177 present on the last day of the previous year. They were of the following races :—

Indians - - - -	82
Creoles (African descent) - -	58
	140

Of these there were :—

Orphans - - - -	47
Both parents alive - - -	41
Father only - - - -	29
Mother only - - - -	23
	140

Of the above, 14 were under 11 years of age, 76 from 11 to 14 years of age, and 50 of 15 years and upwards.

36. The average number of boys present at the reformatory during the past year was 159, against 188 in 1875.

37. Out of 38 boys received into the reformatory in 1876, eight had been convicted once before and one twice. Their races were, Indians, 26; Creoles, 12. The Indian boys have entered in greater proportion than in the previous year, whereas the Creoles have considerably decreased.

38. Thirteen boys deserted during the year and 11 were recaptured.

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39. The net expenditure on account of the institution during 1876 was 1,784*l.* The buildings and repairs are not included. The gross value of the boys' labour and the sums realized from sales of articles made were as follows:—

	£
Sale of articles made during the year - -	694
Estimated value of work for the institution -	215
Materials on hand and articles unsold - -	86
	£995

This is a more favourable result than in any previous year.

40. The sanitary condition of the inmates of the institution is good.

Education.

41. The following table exhibits the number of pupils on the rolls in Government schools, with the average attendance at each during the past three years:—

42. *Government Schools.*

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage attending as compared with Numbers on Roll.
1874 - -	5,276	3,426	64·93
1875 - -	5,452	3,452	63·31
1876 - -	5,358	3,403	63·51

In 1876, of those on the rolls, there were, boys, 4,119; girls, 1,239. The number of pupils examined to be graded in the Government schools in the six fixed standards of reading, writing, and arithmetic was 2,859. The remainder of the pupils on the roll, from various causes, were not examined.

2,443 passed in reading.
2,174 „ writing.
2,049 „ arithmetic.

The number of Indian pupils, or those of Indian descent, in Government schools was:—

Boys - - - - -	1,688
Girls - - - -	178
	1,866

Of the above 379 were Mahomedans and 1,127 were Hindoos.

43. The total expenditure in Government schools for 1876, including rent for houses and all other charges, except books, stationery, and general superintendence, was 12,412*l.*

The total amount of fees received during 1876 was 501*l.*

44. The average cost of each pupil to Government, deducting the amount of fees received, according to the average number on roll (5,358), was 2*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, but according to the average attendance (3,403) it amounted to 3*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

Grant-in-Aid Schools.

45. The number of schools receiving grants from Government during the year was :—

Roman Catholic - - -	30
Church of England - - -	12
Independent - - - -	2
	44

The number of pupils on the rolls of these schools, and their average attendance during the last three years, is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance.
1874 - -	2,734	1,829	66·89
1875 - -	3,156	1,986	62·92
1876 - -	3,396	2,279	67·10

46. The total amount provided for this class of school is 4,000*l.* Of this 2,704*l.* has been expended in grants to 44 schools. In those schools the average cost to Government for the year of each pupil according to the average number on roll (3,396) was 15*s.* 11*d.*, but according to the average attendance it was 1*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

47. The grade tests have been applied during the year to 42 of the grant schools. The number of pupils who were examined to be graded in the three subjects of instruction was 1,907 :—

1,521 passed in reading.
1,540 ,, writing.
1,393 ,, arithmetic.

The number of Indian pupils, or those of Indian descent, attending grant-in-aid schools was, boys 751, girls 212. Of these 115 were Mahomedans and 612 Hindoos.

48. It is to be noticed that 681 pupils who left the several Government and other schools in 1876 are following various honest occupations. Of these 160 are employed in trades and handicrafts, and 91 (girls) as milliners and seamstresses.

Normal School.

49. Under this head it may be noticed that 19 students have been under instruction in the theory and practice of school management.

Railways.

50. The receipts and expenses for the last two years are given in the following table :—

	1876.	1875.
	£	£
Receipts - - - - -	132,480	115,924*
Working and contingent expenses - -	92,502	96,877
Surplus - - -	39,978	19,047
Per-centage of expenditure to receipts -	69·82	83·56

51. It was estimated that the receipts from the first section of the Savanne Branch would amount in 1876 to 3,000*l.*, but as the line was not opened until the 11th of December the actual receipts amounted only to 202*l.*

There was an increase in the total receipts of 11·94 per cent., and a decrease in the expenditure of 0·73 per. cent., when compared with 1875.

52. The number of passengers decreased by 61,019 when compared with 1875, and by no less than 186,021 when compared with the numbers given in 1874. This decrease of passenger traffic was no doubt due to the comparatively depressed condition of the labouring classes.

53. In general goods traffic there was a large increase both in the merchandise and sugars conveyed by rail, which was greater than in any preceding year. This is accounted for by the increased crop over 1875, and from the disease which existed among mules and horses. As compared with the previous year the increase is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Tons of general Goods.	Tons of Sugar.
1875 - -	89,125	50,355
1876 - -	113,106	78,949
Increase -	23,981	28,594

* The figures for 1875 show the amounts actually received and paid on account of that year. The figures for 1876 show the amounts received and paid during that year.

54. The train service was once interrupted by a hurricane on the 19th February, which fortunately caused but slight damage.

55. A new station was opened at Curepipe Road on the 24th May. It is found to be both profitable and convenient.

56. The permanent way and works, as well as the rolling stock, including locomotive engines, have been kept in good order. Four of the locomotives have been rebuilt.

57. Six six-wheeled waggons for the conveyance of sugar have been built, each capable of carrying 14 tons, also two six-wheeled double storey carriages, each seating 106 people.

Post Office and Telegraph.

58. The revenue collected by the post offices in Mauritius in 1876 was 8,808*l.*, including Imperial postage (2,635*l.*) That collected in 1875 amounted to 8,695*l.*, including Imperial postage (3,227*l.*) The sum of 764*l.* commission on money orders is included in the revenne for 1876.

59. The number of letters received from and despatched to the various district post offices of the Colony during the year amounted to 236,680, and the newspapers to 337,542. 146,652 letters, and 153,685 newspapers were received from or were sent abroad by mail packet.

The cost of establishments, including allowances and contingencies, was 3,513*l.*, against 3,432*l.* in the previous year. Including 4,600*l.* for conveyance of mails to and from Aden, and amount debited by the railway for conveyance of mails, the total cost of the Department was 9,107*l.*, against 9,086*l.* in 1875.

Telegraphs.

61. The Telegraph Department was transferred during the year from the railway to the Post Office.

62. The train signalling and railway service messages during 1876 amounted to 95,815. Telegraph service messages numbered 8,622. The messages for the various other Government Departments numbered 1,130*l.* Those sent by private persons and paid for numbered 7,235.

63. The total expenditure of this Department for 1876, including establishments, amounted to 1,310*l.*, against 1,268*l.* in the previous year.

64. The receipts in cash for messages sent by private persons during the year, including porterage, amounted to 466*l.* The value of messages sent by Government Departments on public service, for which no payment is made, amounted to 166*l.*

65. The net cash amount paid into the Treasury, after deducting sums paid for porterage of messages, was 466*l.* The actual cost of this Department to the Treasury therefore amounted to 844*l.* But Government messages amounted in value or cost to 167*l.*, for which no payment is made.

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Public Works.

66. No new building of importance was commenced. An infirmary at the Barkly Asylum for paupers, providing space for 29 beds, was completed. Various buildings forming part of a central lunatic asylum were completed. The whole outlay on this work to the end of the year was 10,300*l.* Various new buildings to improve the accommodation at the quarantine station, Flat Island, were constructed.

67. The expenditure on roads was principally on account of repairs. It reached the large sum of 11,429*l.*, for keeping up 337 miles of road. About five miles of new road were completed.

68. No new bridges of importance were undertaken, but much was done in maintenance and repairs of existing bridges.

69. Various surveys of Crown lands were made. The district boundaries of the whole island have been readjusted, and permanent marks where required have been fixed. A commencement has been made in constructing district maps on a scale of one inch to the mile. That for the district of Grand Port has been completed.

70. The branch railway to Savanne has been in course of building during the year, under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Works. The first section, being 4¼ miles in length, was opened for traffic in December. Some levels were taken in view of a projected railway in the district of Moka.

71. The expenditure of the Department during the year may be thus apportioned :—

Buildings.

	£
New works continuation, and completion of those in progress - - - -	8,806
Repairs and maintenance - - -	6,518
Roads.	
New - - - - - -	1,967
Repairs and maintenance - - -	10,273
Bridges.	
New - - - - - -	731
Maintenance, including canals - -	2,379
	30,674

72. The apparent discrepancy between these figures and those entered in Nos. 14 and 15 of Heads of Expenditure is explained as follows :—

No. 14, 11,339*l.*, includes about 2,000*l.* for materials purchased in England and India, and paid for in 1876; whilst the sum of 15,324*l.* includes only the materials actually consumed by the Public Works Department in 1876, without regard to the year in which the stores were paid for. This causes a difference of 717*l.*, as noted in the printed report of the Superintendent of Public Works. A further sum of nearly 5,000*l.* for the new lunatic asylum is not chargeable to the year 1876, having been taken from a sum of 10,000*l.* placed in deposit in 1873 for the construction of the new prisons. After deducting the 5,717*l.*, the balance shows a difference of about 477*l.* between the two accounts, attributable to value of stores unclassified.

73. As regards the difference in the items of roads and bridges, it is due to the circumstance that the Superintendent of Public Works has included in new roads a sum of about 670*l.* contributed by the inhabitants for these roads under Ordinance No. 33 of 1858, but which contributions do not figure in the public accounts, being collected and placed in deposit to meet the Government contribution.

Savings Bank.

74. The amount deposited during the year 1876 was 87,832*l.* Of this 42,213*l.* was deposited by Indians. The deposits by all persons were 6,477*l.* more in amount than in the previous year. Those by Indians increased 1,702*l.*

75. The amount withdrawn was 96,064.*l.* Of this 46,714*l.* was withdrawn by Indians. The withdrawals have been less by 5,663*l.* than in the previous year. The sum of 16,993*l.* was withdrawn by Indians returning to their country.

76. The following statement shows the total number of depositors and the total amount in deposit at the end of 1875 and 1876:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount in Deposit.	Average of each.
		£	£
1875 - -	11,147	241,554	21
1876 - -	11,432	242,784	21

Of this amount 5,489 Indians held 120,170*l.* at the close of 1876.

Population.

77. Of the two classes of population the numbers of each as estimated on the 31st December 1876 were as follows:—

	Indian.	
Males - - -	149,460	
Females - -	86,629	
		236,089
	General.	
Males - - -	58,11[illegible]	
Females -	51,748	
		109,866
Total - - -		345,955

On the 31st December 1875 the numbers were as follows :—

	Indian.	
Males - - -	150,896	
Females - - -	85,439	
		236,335
	General.	
Males - - -	57,313	
Females - - -	50,954	
		108,267
Total - - -		344,602

78. In the Indian population there was a decrease during the year of 1,436 males, but an increase, the result of immigration, of 1,190 females. They now form 36·69 per cent. of this section of the population. The decrease in the number of male Indians is explained by departures to India and elsewhere having exceeded the arrivals by 1,825.

In the general population the increase in 1876 was :—

Males - - - - -	805
Females - - - -	794
Total - -	1,599

The total increase of population during the year was 1,353, or 3·91 per 1,000, against a little over 15 per 1,000 in 1875.

79. The number of Chinese increases annually. During the last two years this section of the population has increased by 443; this increase is due to excess of arrivals over departures.

80. The death-rate of the Indian population was 26·9 and that of the general population 28·8. The total death-rate for both sections of the population was 27·5 per 1,000. The death-rate of the city and district of Port Louis was on the whole

population 36·2 per 1,000. 14 per 1,000 of the deaths registered are attributable to fever against 11·7 per 1,000 in 1875.

Of the 9,521 persons who died in the year, 3,526 or 37 per cent. were children under five years of age.

81. The number of children born alive and registered during the year was 12,831. Of these, 6,450 were boys and 6,381 girls. Of the births registered, 8,603 belonged to the Indian population and 4,228 to the general population.

82. The proportion of births to the female population was of Indians 99 per 1,000, and of the general population 81 per 1,000.

83. The population of Rodrigue and Seychelles is not included.

Immigration.

84. During the year under review the actual number of Indian immigrants landed at the depôt in Port Louis was:—

Men - - - - -	301
Women - - - -	141
Boys - - - - -	29
Girls - - - - -	31
Total - -	502

This is the smallest number of immigrants introduced in any one year since 1867. They arrived in two ships from Calcutta. Of these, 74 of both sexes had been in Mauritius before.

85. The health of the immigrants was satisfactory. The rate of mortality at sea was lower than it had been since 1868. It was 3·97 per 1,000, against 7·13 in the previous year.

86. The number of Indians who left Mauritius during the year was:—

Males - - - -	2,354
Females - - - -	917
Total - -	3,271

This number includes 363 males and 352 females born in the Colony. Of the above number 2,905 returned to the three Presidencies, 357 went to Natal, and 9 to other places.

87. The amount of money in cash or drafts declared by the above emigrants as being taken with them was:—

	£
Cash - - - -	23,161
Drafts - - - -	12,670
Total - -	35,831

414 men declared that they had no savings.

88. Of those who left the Colony 487 were sent to India at Government expense or of the Poor Law Commission, and 2,730 paid their own passages. This includes the number who left for Natal, but whose passages were mostly paid by their employers.

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The remaining 54 worked for their return passages. The sums paid for return passages were:—

	£	s.	d.
To Calcutta - - -	2	15	0
„ Madras - - -	2	10	0
„ Bombay - - -	2	14	0

89. The amount of money remitted by Indians to India through the Protector of Immigrants in 1876 was 12,886*l.*, including the 12,670*l.* carried away by return immigrants themselves in drafts as previously mentioned.

90. On the 31st December 1876 the number of Indian immigrants in this Colony was estimated as follows:—

Males - - - -	101,650
Females - - - -	43,096
Total - -	144,746

Less by 5,483 (4,088 males and 1,395 females) than it was on the last day of the preceding year, exclusive of those of Indian parentage born in the Island. Among the Indian immigrants the births during the year were:—

Males - - - -	4,298
Females - - - -	4,305
Total - -	8,603

63,221 engagements were entered into during the year between labourers and employers; of these, 42,091 were re-engagements with the same employers. About five-sixths of these re-engagements were for periods not exceeding one year. The number of Indians born in the Island who engaged for labour during 1876 was 8,001, against 6,545 in 1875.

91. The number of suicides among the Indian population was much below the average of the previous eight years. It was 38 against 50 in 1875. Only two of them were females.

The stated reasons for these suicides were as follows:—

Ill-health - - - - -	6
Effects of intoxicating liquors and drugs -	8
Domestic trouble - - - -	7
After attempting or committing murder -	2
Temporary insanity - - -	4
Total - -	27

The causes of the remaining 11 are not accounted for.

92. The total number of deaths among the Indian population on the various sugar estates amounted to 3,198, or 24·33 per 1,000 on the whole population on sugar estates; this death rate is not quite 4 per 1,000 less than the death-rate of the general population, which includes that of Port Louis.

93. The number of convictions of Indians under the Labour Laws in 1876 for refusing to work, unlawful absence, desertion, &c. was 4,527, against 4,752, in the previous year.

94. The convictions of employers and overseers on complaints preferred against them by Indians is higher than in any previous year since 1868. These complaints were for nonpayment of wages, breach of ration rules, &c. The total number is 5,373, against 1,794 in 1875.

Legislation.

95. Thirty-three ordinances were passed during the year, the principal objects were :—

For providing ways and means and sums for the service of Government.

For the establishment of the metric system of weights, measures of capacity, and measures of length.

For the control of public markets.

For the construction of a railway to the district of Savanne; also for regulating the use of locomotives on public roads.

For the care of vacant estates.

To amend the law relating to the celebration of marriages.

To amend the law relating to offences committed as to new-born infants.

For the recovery of taxes in arrear and of small debts due to the Crown; also to reduce the cost of title deeds and registration to poor tenants of the Crown.

For the better administration of justice in the Seychelles Islands.

To amend the laws relating to the post office and electric telegraph.

To regulate the customs in the Seychelles.

To amend and consolidate the laws on fisheries.

To amend the law relating to the paper currency.

To provide for leases of portions of the Pas Géométriques for certain purposes.

Port Louis Prison.

96. The daily average number of prisoners in Port Louis Gaol during 1876 was 658. The 1,319 of the previous year included all those in the district prisons.

97. The general death rate per cent. for the year was 2·40, against 2·89 in 1875, which included the district prisons.

98. The total number of persons convicted in 1876 by the courts in Port Louis and committed to the Port Louis Prison was as follows :—

Europeans - - - -	240
Creoles - - - -	892
Indians - - - -	2,046
Total - -	3,178

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In addition to these numbers 5 females and 59 males were sentenced by the Court of Assizes.

99. Of the 3,242 convicted as above explained, 220 were condemned to more than three months imprisonment, 617 to three months or less. The majority of those convicted, or 2,365 persons, were imprisoned for nonpayment of fines. Of these 365 had been once previously convicted, 459 twice, 363 thrice or oftener; so that more than 35 per cent. of the whole number of prisoners had been previously convicted.

100. There were 2,469 offences against prison rules in the Port Louis prisons during 1876, and the same number of disciplinary punishments.

101. Eighteen prisoners escaped during the year; of these 10 escaped at out-door labour, the rest from the jail itself; 14 were recaptured, leaving four at large.

102. The cost of criminal prisoners convicted and under trial in Port Louis Gaol during 1876 amounted to 94,260. This includes the fixed and extra establishments, hospital expenses, rations, clothing, and all expenses, except for buildings. The annual cost for each prisoner will be about Rs. 14,325. The value of work performed in the prison, deducting cost of materials supplied, amounted to 859*l.* In addition, 88*l.* was realized by the sale of broken metal for roads.

103. The approximate value of the labours of prisoners on sanitary and other works in the vicinity of Port Louis was estimated at 2,477*l.*

Observatory.

104. The land observations, meteorological and magnetical, for time and sun spots have been continued throughout the year.

105. The result of observations taken in 1874 for determining the longitude of Lord Lindsay's Observatory, in connexion with the transit of Venus, agrees very closely with the official longitude heretofore accepted.

106. The sea observations derived from the logs of ships arriving at Mauritius and compared with the recorded observations on the island have been tabulated.

107. Detailed report is given of the storm warnings communicated from the observatory to the signal station Port Louis, and of the principle upon which they are made.

108. The report of the Director concludes with interesting remarks on special researches during the year, as to the curves described by the wind in cyclones, and the connexion between sun spots, rainfall, and storms.

Royal Botanic Gardens

109. The number of visitors to the garden at Pamplemousses during the year was 80,324.

110. During the year 315,600 plants were propogated and sent out.

111. Among these were forest trees for Government plantations, fruit trees, coffee plants, and flowering shrubs sold to the public.

112. Several varieties of sugar cane were sent to various parts of the world.

Many useful trees and plants have been received from Seychelles, India, Ceylon, Java, Australia, and Europe.

113. Liberian coffee plants introduced during 1875 have thriven well. Climbing plants which yield caoutchouc have been introduced from Madagascar.

114. The laying out of the nursery gardens at Curepipe was nearly completed.

115. The Cinchona plantation there is promising. The trees of four years old have attained a height of 12 feet.

Rodrigues.

116. The population of this island, as during the previous year, amounts to about 1,400 souls; of these, about 950 persons are employed in agriculture and 300 in sea fisheries.

117. The value of the imports amounted to 4,088*l.* and the exports to 8,358*l.* One half of the latter is derived from salt fish. Of horned cattle 916 head were exported.

118. The revenue amounted to 1,008*l.* The expenditure to 1,397*l.*

119. The average attendance at the Government school was 54 children.

120. A dreadful hurricane devastated the island during the year. There is, however, no cultivation of a nature to suffer more than temporary injury.

Minor Dependencies.

121. The minor dependencies or oil islands were visited during the year by the magistrate appointed under Ordinance 41 of 1875.

122. There are still some points in the treatment of the labourers which require attention. But a considerable improvement in their condition is manifest.

General Remarks.

123. The year was a very favourable one for agriculture. No severe storm occurred, and the sugar crop was uninjured. The rate of exchange with Europe continued high.

(Signed) A. P. PHAYRE,
Governor.

Mauritius, July 19, 1877.

SEYCHELLES.

No. 18.

REPORT on the SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK for 1876.

SIR, Mahé, Seychelles, March 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Annual Blue Book Returns for this Settlement, and my report thereon for the year 1876.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

Legislation.

Ordinances 2 and 3 of 1876 establish the metrical system of weights and measures, to come into operation on the 1st January 1878.

Ordinance No. 14 amends the civil status procedure.

Ordinance No. 17 provides for the better administration of justice at Seychelles. This Act is mainly for the purpose of preventing the unnecessary summoning of the judge and officers of the court as witnesses.

Ordinance No. 24 separates entirely the Seychelles from the Mauritius Customs system. Both are placed, as regards each other, on the footing of a foreign country.

Proclamation No. 15 extended to Seychelles Ordinance 12 of 1876, with certain modifications. This law makes better provision for the Curatorship of Vacant Estates.

Proclamation No. 23 extend to Seychelles Ordinance 12 of 1874 and 34 of 1875. These Ordinances regulate the payment of witnesses.

Proclamation No. 28 puts in force, from 1st January 1877, Her Majesty's Order in Council of 12th August 1876, making the Indian rupee the only legal tender of payment, except British copper and bronze tokens up to half a rupee.

Government Notice 18 of 1876 augments the scale of wages of liberated Africans and determines how minor Africans are to be paid.

Government Notice 73 of 1876 is a postal regulation laying down that no money, jewellry, or precious articles, or such as are liable to Customs duties shall be received at the Post Office for transmission to any of the countries comprised within the Postal Union.

Government Notice 80 raised to 3*s.* 5*d.* in the pound sterling the commission payable on money orders drawn on the United Kingdom.

The Board of Commissioners passed five regulations. One was for the Supplementary Estimates for 1873 and another embodied the Estimates for 1877. The Sanitary Rate Act of 1874 was amended, as well as the Local Rate Act of 1875, to meet some legal points that had been raised. The regulation to deter larcenies of cocoa nuts was amended so as to include the fruit as well as the leaves and every part of the coco de mer tree.

Revenue.

The revenue was calculated to reach 12,794*l.* It fell short in 16 items, amounting to 1,868*l.* 4*s.* 0¼*d.*, and it was exceeded in 8 items, amounting to 200*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* The net falling off amounted to 1,667*l.* 17*s.* 2¼*d.* The unusual lateness at which the sugar cane crop for distilling purposes arrived at maturity, a falling off in the imports of wines and spirituous liquours during the first half of the year, and the consequent fall in receipts from spirit store licenses to the amount of 318*l.*, or 20 per cent., accounts for 1,204*l.* 18*s.* of this sum. The dog tax and sanitary rate were neither fully collected owing to the late period at which the laws to collect these taxes were put in force. The disturbing causes which affected the revenue for the first eight months of the year disappeared during the latter four months of it. The double system of Customs has been always a drawback to this place, and it was difficult to determine what the imports liable to duties or refund of duties were likely to come to. During the past year the imports fell short of the requirements of the people in some essential particulars. The supply of flour was small, and what there was of it was of a very bad quality. The supply o. rice was at times very short and prices were consequently high. Wine was difficult to obtain. Rum was not to be bought wholesale in the cask at one time, and retailers sold the small quantity on hand at double the ordinary rate. In most articles of ordinary use by the people, the supply was not equal to the demand, although the total value of imports exceeded that of last year. The law making the duties on imports the same from whatever country the articles arrive will put the trade on a surer basis. It will be seen that not only the revenue suffered in many items, one affecting the other, but people had to pay more for the ordinary articles of consumption.

Expenditure.

The expenditure was estimated at 12,671*l.* 12*s.* The actual expenditure for the year, brought to account in the books, was 11,381*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, or 255*l.* 15*s.* 7¼*d.* over the receipts. There were sums to be yet paid for the year (undrawn salaries) amounting to 313*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* and 205*l.* to be paid for teak timber (yet on hand), and 27*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* due on money orders more than our accounts show. These several sums make the expenditure 801*l.* 6*s.* 11¼*d.** over the receipts of the year, but 488*l.* 6*s.* 7¾*d.* under the estimated expenditure, the board during the year voted for several works, the cost of which was to come out of the balance in hand. The excess will have to come out of the balance, which will

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	£	*s.*	*d.*
*	255	15	7¼
	313	4	10
	205	0	0
	27	6	6
	801	6	11¼

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thereby be reduced to 1,886*l.* 15*s.* 4½*d.* (on the 31st December 1875 it was 2,698*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*). Out of this balance again, the sum of 576*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* will have to be written off as there seems no probability of Mr. Franklyn's estate paying it. The net available balance will thus be 1,310*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* on the 31st December 1876. There is an amount due to the London Post Office for one year's ocean postage. 250*l.* of the year's expenditure was a payment to the Mauritius Government for the "Wave," a cutter which came here four years ago.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports for the year is estimated at 39,294*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, being nearly 7,000*l.* more than last year. The excess is mainly due to a larger importation of machinery and coal.

The exports for the year are estimated at 44,255*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, an increase, deducting specie (3,914*l.* 12*s.*), of 11,405*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* over last year. In no previous year were the exports so heavy. The increase is due to the larger quantity shipped of the usual produce as well as to its greater value, and to cocoa-nut fibre. The export trade should progress steadily every year for some time to come. Cocoa-nut oil, fibre, tobacco, and vanilla are the most prominent. Coffee and cacao were stationary. The yield of cloves was less than usual, while the price was high. Besides the above exports, goods to the value of 4,644*l.* were re-exported. Over 157,000 gallons of sperm oil (of which a large proportion was taken on the Seychelles Bank) went to the United States; this article does not figure in the export return.

Population.

A census was taken in 1876 for the purpose of obtaining the religious creeds and domestic status of the population. There were 10,408 souls in the Island of Mahé, 729 at Ladigue Island, and 904 at Praslin Island. There were between 500 and 600 people on the other islands. The total population is estimated at 12,700. During the last five years it has increased by 1,618 souls, or nearly 15 per cent. The number of males was found to be 4,007 men and 2,502 boys, total 6,509. The number of females was 3,754 women and 2,437 girls, total 6,191. The unusual circumstance of more men than women is partly due to there being no losses to male life in this country to dispose of the extra male births. The difference is mainly due to the liberated Africans now living, of whom there are 272 more males than females, for, included in the census is the liberated African population as follows:—919 men and 205 boys, total 1,124 males; 758 women and 94 girls, total 852 females. Total natives of Africa liberated at Seychelles now living 1,976. The descendants of Africans born at Seychelles are merged in the Creole population.

The total births for the year, 487, are 23 over the previous year. The total deaths, 302, are 14 less than the previous year. The number of marriages, 103, is 16 over the previous year. The marriages of liberated Africans rose from 17 in 1875 to 49 in

1876. The marriages among the general population diminished from 70 in 1875 to 54 in 1876.

Education.

The schools examined during the year for grants-in-aid were five, with the following results:—

Description of School.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Orphans lodged.	Number of Children taught gratuitously.	Number of Children who pay.	Total Number of Attendances.	Amount received in Fees.	Amount of Grant-in-Aid.
Protestant, boys -	1	—	46	—	46	} —	45 13 0
Do. girls -	1	—	38	—	38		
Roman Catholic, boys - -	3	—	48	30	78	72 0 0	87 12 0
Roman Catholic, girls (2 schools)	12	98	234	56	388	134 8 0	300 15 0
Total for the five schools -	17	98	366	86	550	206 8 0	434 0 0

There were 13 unexamined schools, private and denominational, attended by 224 scholars, of whom 132 were boys and 92 were girls. Gratuitous teaching is given in some of these schools.

Commerce.

Seventy-four merchant vessels, measuring 39,855 tons, entered Port Victoria Harbour in 1876, besides eight war steamers. The number of merchant vessels is less by seven than is shown in the 1875 returns, but the tonnage is 12,206 tons more. 246 passengers were landed. 238 seamen were engaged before the Shipping Master (being 71 over last year), and 187 were discharged in 1876.

Agriculture.

Every description of produce was more largely planted in 1876 than in previous years. About 7,000 acres more were planted than in 1874–75, in cocoa-nut trees and fruits and vegetables principally, but there was an increase also in vanilla, coffee, tobacco, cacao, and cloves. The people, especially the Africans, prefer manioc to most other vegetables, and its cultivation has been largely substituted for that of maize. Cotton is no longer grown. Sugar-cane (for distilling purposes) has been less grown.

The capabilities of the country for giving the higher classes of produce are not enough known to the bulk of the smaller landowners. They are, besides, ignorant of the money value of such articles in foreign markets. Hardly any one knows how to grow and properly prepare them.

Regular labour is scarce and unreliable, and the large cultivators complain much. The population is generally not unindustrious, but the labourer is fond of change, and he prefers working for a

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share of the food he raises. On this system he becomes his own master in so far that he need only work when he feels inclined, and there is no doubt he takes many holidays. Capital is not so much attracted to the soil as it would be were the steady labour required for the higher class of cultivation forthcoming.

Public Works.

A new camp for the Liberated Africans engaged by Government on public works has been laid out, including 10 dwelling-houses and a public kitchen. Some new bridges have been built. The Custom House buildings were altered, and a strong room added. The gaol was re-roofed. Roads and streets were kept in as good a state of repair as was practicable. Several minor, but important, works were finished. A coal wharf, a new landing stage, and a port lighthouse were under construction.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There were 488 persons arrested and tried in 1876. The number was 116 less than last year. 376 were convicted, 107 discharged, and five committed to the assises. The total money fines inflicted during the year came to 403*l.* 14*s.*; last year the sum was 267*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* Some of the fines were remitted and some lessened. The nationality of the prisoners convicted is as follows: Europeans, 3; creoles, 206; Africans, 135; Indians, 19; other foreigners, 13. 292 of the convictions were for minor offences; 38 of the prisoners had been previously convicted once, and 105 more than once; 8 prisoners were released on pardon during the year. The daily average number of prisoners in gaol was 37. Last year it was 58. 23 prisoners were sent to the Public Hospital during the year. The monthly average on the sick list was less than nine. There were no deaths.

Money Orders.

The money orders issued at Seychelles and payable at Mauritius for the year 1876 came to 1,820*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* Those payable in England came to 309*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* The money orders issued at Mauritius and payable at Seychelles amounted to 93*l.* 9*s.*, and those issued in England came to 6*l.* 5*s.* The total remittances from Seychelles in this form came to 2,130*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, and the remittances to Seychelles reached only 99*l.* 14*s.*

(Signed) C. S. SALMON.

To his Excellency Maj.-Gen.
Sir A. P. Phayre, K.C.S.I., C.B.,
Governor of Mauritius.

No. 19.

Lieutenant-Governor ANSON, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Singapore,
MY LORD, September 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of these Settlements for the year 1876, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary on the Settlement of Singapore, and the report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Penang, on that Settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Administrator.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

SINGAPORE.

The financial position of the Straits Settlements which had become somewhat complicated at the commencement of the year 1876, through the disturbances in the Peninsula and the large advances made from the local treasuries to certain Native States into which the residential system had been introduced, showed marked signs of improvement during the course of the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

The net balance to the credit of the Colony (after deducting sums appropriated by Ordinance for the construction of certain public works) rose from $128,198 on 31st December 1875 to $360,559 on 31st December 1876, the causes of this increase being, first, that the revenue of the year exceeded the charges defrayed out of it as well as all charges against surplus balances by $114,891, and secondly, that in view of the alteration in our financial position brought about by the Perak war, certain appropriations for public works which had not yet been commenced were repealed by Ordinance XVI., of 1876, thus relieving our debtor and creditor account to the extent of $136,004 81. The decreases which explain the difference are of minor moment.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the year was $1,659,034, showing an increase over that of the preceding year of $120,180 or almost exactly 8 per cent.; it is to be noted, however, that this increase is

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. SINGAPORE.

derived mainly from casual and not permanent sources. Land sales, for example, figure in it for $46,814; arrears of contribution from the Singapore municipality, due in 1875 but paid in 1876, for $36,385, while profit on copper coin issued in the Settlements and in Labuan contributes a further increase of $59,270.

On the other hand a decrease of $26,000 was caused in the revenue of Singapore by the handing over of the markets to the Municipal Commissioners, in return for their undertaking the up-keep of the inland roads outside the municipal limits. But this decrease being counterbalanced by a corresponding saving of expenditure is in reality a matter of account.

During the year 1876 the opium, spirit, and pawnbroking farms were re-let in all the three Settlements for the triennial period 1878–80, at an annual increase of $186,472. This very welcome addition to our incomings may be expected to bring up our ordinary revenue, irrespective of such exceptional receipts as those above alluded to, to about the amount received in 1876, making allowance also for the very serious loss of postal revenue, which has resulted from the adoption of the Berne convention.

And it may now be said that the revenue of the Straits Settlements suffices to cover all charges against it, including such ordinary works as may be considered to form part of the current needs of the Colony, and to leave a working surplus of a little over $100,000 available for public works of magnitude or other special purposes.

The expenditure of the year 1876 was, in consequence of the temporary difficulties in which the disturbances in the Peninsula involved our finances, kept down to the lowest scale consistent with efficient administration, and no new public works of any importance were undertaken during the year.

$10,807 were spent on the new Penang prison constructed on the cellular system, which has been occupied by the prisoners during the current year; $10,940 on the completion of the additional wing at the Raffle's Institute, intended for the reception of the sons of Malay Rajahs studying at the institute. As, however, there were at the time the building was completed no candidates for admission to its walls, part of the building has been temporarily appropriated for the purposes of a public library and museum, while the lower story has been handed over to the institute, which was in urgent need of additional class rooms.

$118,179 04 were spent upon the Singapore waterworks in addition to an expenditure in previous years of $287,390 05.

The gross expenditure during the year from revenue and supplementary supply Ordinances was $1,544,143 as compared with $1,805,229 in 1875, showing a decrease of $261,085, and the net expenditure from revenue alone $1,499,050 as against $1,503,745 in 1875, showing a similar decrease of $4,694.

It is worthy of note that there was but a very slight change in the expenditure on establishments during the two years, the

figures under this head being $595,544 in 1876 and $594,786 in the previous year.

Local Revenues.

The only change in the local revenues was that already noticed, of the transfer of the market rents in Singapore to the Municipal Commissioners in return for the up-keep of the roads outside the municipal limits being undertaken by that body, the revenue of and expenditure by these bodies in the three Settlements were as follows :—

Revenue.

——	Singapore.	Penang,	Malacca.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
1875 - -	136,686	115,424	18,402	270,512
1876 - -	170,178	123,809	17,560	311,547
	+33,492	+8,385	−842	+41,035

Expenditure.

——	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
1875 - -	136,256	124,333	15,223	275,812
1876 - -	174,361	130,843	20,006	325,210
	+38,105	+6,510	+4,783	+49,398

Legislation.

The most important measures passed by the legislature during the year were Ordinance I. of 1876, which regulates the immigration of native labourers from British India. The details of this Bill were discussed between the Colonial and India Offices before it was passed in the Colony, and it contains the usual provisions as to the recruitment of the labourer in India, his passage thence and his protection during his term of service.

An Ordinance subsequently passed (Ordinance V. of 1876) suspended the operation of this measure, and Ordinance No. XII. of 1876 brought the Ordinance into force for the Settlement of Penang only, to which Settlement the immigration of Indian labourers is at present confined.

The establishment of local savings banks was authorised by Ordinance VI. of 1876, and an institution of this nature was opened in Singapore. It is much resorted to by the officers and crews of vessels plying to the port, and by other Europeans, but the native population have not as yet learned to appreciate its benefits.

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An important Ordinance (No. II. of 1876) was also passed to facilitate the settlement of lands in Malacca, the tenure of which has been for many years in a very unsatisfactory position, hampering the collection of the revenue and giving rise to a considerable proportion of the acts of violence and crime committed in Malacca. The measure was devised on a very liberal basis and one which provides no compulsory interference with native customs and prejudices.

By Ordinances XIV. and XV., the first of which amends and consolidates the law of distresses for rent, while the second amends the law relating to Crown suits, reforms which were much required are provided in our legal procedure respecting the subjects dealt with.

The other Bills enacted other than the ordinary financial Bills of the year have been :—

Ordinance IV. passed in connexion with the arrest of certain Chiefs implicated in the disturbances in the Malay Peninsula, provides by law for the arrest and detention of State prisoners.

Ordinance VIII. provides for the appointment of Commissioners to inquire into matters referred to them and confers powers of sending for witnesses and papers, subject to an indemnifying clause.

Ordinance IX. repeals and re-enacts with amendments the Gaming Houses Ordinance XIII. of 1870, the special object of the amendments being to relieve respectable house owners from certain enactments of the original Ordinance which were found to bear unjustly upon them.

Ordinance X. provides for the periodical inspection of steam boilers and prime movers attached thereto, while Ordinance XVII. amends the Courts Ordinance of 1873 by restoring the jurisdiction of the the courts of requests and making provision for carrying on the duties of the Supreme Court pending the final decision of Her Majesty's Government as to the constitution of that tribunal.

All the above Ordinances have received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance, with the exception of Ordinance No. X., to which some slight amendment has been suggested by the Board of Trade.

Pensions.

The expenditure under the head "pensions" showed an increase of $16,306 in 1876 over that of the previous year, the figures being $67,414 in 1876 as against $51,108 in 1875; this increase was, however, due to the liquidation in 1876 of the arrears of several unsettled claims and not to any permanent augmentation in our annual charges. The ordinary expenditure of the pension list stood at $52,015 at the close of 1876, and at $52,330 at the close of 1875, showing a slight decrease as between the two years.

Education.

The education results as given in the report of the inspector of schools show that fair progress was made with education during the year under review. The average attendance at the Raffle's school, notwithstanding a very material increase in the fees payable at the institution, shows an increase from 405 in 1875 to 465 in 1876, a very gratifying result, as showing in a practical way that the population have learnt to appreciate the advantages of education, and to be not unwilling to pay a fair price to obtain them.

There are, however, many difficulties still to contend with, it is difficult for example to find and to retain competent under-masters at the rates of pay which the trustees are able to offer, but the most serious and most deep rooted impediment in the way of a high class of education lies in the imperfect acquaintance with English, the language which is the medium of instruction, possessed by the scholars.

The immense majority of the boys come to school knowing no English whatever, and have to be taught it in the first instance as a foreign language, and since a Malay patois is the language which they still speak in their homes, few boys attain such a complete familiarity with English as to allow of a ready and direct assimilation of instruction, conveyed to them in words of which they have to interpret to themselves the meaning while listening to the teacher.

There has been of late considerable agitation among the Eurasians of Singapore for "self-improvement." One, and a most important form of it is ready to their hands, if they would insist on the use of English in their families. Until they do so the difficulties of imparting and receiving education must continue much the same as if, for example, history and geography were attempted to be taught at the great English schools in German or some other continental language. And the evil does not cease with the mere school days. The majority of the clerks who enter the Government service know far less English after 10 years spent in a public office than when they first joined fresh from school.

In the vernacular schools the great difficulty is to obtain good teachers, the general standard of education among Malays having hitherto been so low. It is intended to establish a training school in Singapore for vernacular teachers, in connexion with the Malay College at Teluk Blanga, an institution which sprung into life of its own accord in October 1876. There is no doubt that a very important stimulus has been given to the desire for education among the Malays by the interest which they, as Mahomedans, take in the Russo-Turkish War. Two weekly Malay newspapers have been started, the greater part of whose space is taken up with war news culled from Reuter's telegrams and the Turkish and Egyptian papers, and there can be little doubt of the value of such periodicals in excitiug a desire to know

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more of the other parts of the world both as to their past and present. In one respect Malay is at a great disadvantage as compared with other Oriental languages, in that it possesses very little literature of its own. The establishment of these newspapers affords, therefore, a very material aid to the vernacular teacher, as well as an incentive to the scholar.

Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value of the imports to, and exports from Singapore in the year 1876, as compared with 1875:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom -	8,669,518	10,252,334	6,658,236	6,719,787
British Colonies and Coasting.	15,373,924	17,055,094	9,791,975	8,991,175
Foreign countries -	19,722,759	18,158,642	25,169,308	24,903,821
	43,766,201	45,466,070	41,619,519	40,614,783

Increases.

A general increase is noticeable in the import of articles from China for consumption among the Chinese in articles varying from wearing apparel and pigs to medicines. Fireworks increased from the value of $103,441 to $310,015, fish increased by $302,000, coals by $245,000, cotton goods by $186,000, opium by $940,000, while a new item figures under the head of cotton sarongs for an import of no less than $623,948.

Decreases.

On the other hand the value of tin exported decreased by $427,000, pepper by $358,000, raw silk by $240,000, rice by $290,000, woollen goods by $272,000. The other increases and decreases do not present more than the casual and minor fluctuations of trade.

The total imports of the three Settlements exhibit but a slight fluctuation, the figures being in 1876 $63,784,181 as against $63,137,716 in 1875, showing a total increase of $646,465.

In the exports from Singapore, fish shows an increase of $131,000, rice of $512,000, opium of $241,000, salted provisions of $205,000, and sawn timber of $162,000. On the other hand Gambier decreased by $510,009, tin by $570,000, precious stones by $110,000, specie by $227,000, nutmegs by $138,000, and pepper by $867,000. As the import of fireworks almost exactly trebled during the year, it is worthy of note that the export decreased by $50,000, a fact which may perhaps be accounted for by our reminiscences of the last Chinese new year.

The total value of the exports from the three settlements decreased from $62,493,328 in 1875 to $59,215,701 in 1876, showing a falling off of $3,609,683.

Shipping.

The following comparative statements exhibit the shipping operations of the Port of Singapore for the years 1875–76.

Vessels entered at Singapore.

—	British.			Foreign.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875 - -	1,378	809,610	49,490	883	474,176	35,392	2,261	1,283,786	84,882
1676 - -	1,314	918,706	58,032	835	535,983	35,731	2,149	1,454,689	93,763
Increase -	—	109,096	8,542	—	61,807	339	—	170,903	8,881
Decrease -	64	—	—	48	—	—	112	—	—

Vessels cleared at Singapore.

—	British.			Foreign.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875 - -	1,384	700,479	46,122	964	303,122	26,458	2,348	1,003,601	72,580
1876 - -	1,378	849,914	70,757	804	579,078	38,627	2,182	1,428,992	109,384
Increase -	—	149,435	24,635	160	275,956	12,169	—	425,391	36,804
Decrease -	6	—	—	—	—	—	166	—	—

Native Craft.

—	Entered at Singapore.			Cleared at Singapore.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875 - -	3,171	83,850	26,778	3,462	83,129	30,067
1876 - -	3,716	94,358	28,535	3,718	103,219	28,597
Increase - -	545	10,508	1,757	256	20,090	1,470
Decrease - -	—	—	—	—	—	—

It is observable that the tendency still continues to increase the size of the vessels in which the general traffic is conveyed to and from the East, there being a small decrease in the number of vessels, but a large increase in the tonnage entered and cleared at the port.

Agriculture.

The only noticeable feature under the head "agriculture" has been a considerable extension of the cultivation of indigo by Chinese in Singapore for local consumption and export to China.

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SINGAPORE.

Health.

The health of the Settlement was fairly good throughout the year.

Hospitals.

The following table shows the general results of the hospital returns:—

—	General Hospital.					Pauper Hospital.					Lock Hospital.				
	No. remaining at beginning of year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Daily Average.	No. remaining at beginning of year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Daily Average.	No. remaining at beginning of year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Daily Average.
1875 -	44	1,242	1,118	86	49	349	1,166	968	286	311	58	310	—	3	36
1876 -	54	1,230	1,199	48	51	261	1,881	1,414	338	334	25	1,058	1,037	1	54

It is satisfactory to note that by the erection of a fence round the Pauper Hospital, a work which was completed early in 1876, the number of patients who absconded was reduced to 147 as compared with 534 during the previous year.

Prisons.

The numbers committed to the House of Detention in 1876 amounted to 659, showing a decrease of 43 as compared with the previous year. In the criminal prison the numbers committed increased from 1,721 in 1875 to 2,065 in 1876, the daily average in this prison similarly increasing from 607 to 625, while the death rate, excluding executions, fell from 85 to 55.

The erection of a new gaol in Singapore to supersede the present one, which is almost wholly on the system of association, was postponed on financial grounds, and also on account of the question of the site for the new building having not yet been finally determined.

Meteorological.

The main rainfall of the year in Singapore was 90 inches as against 94 in the previous year. In both years the locality where the largest rainfall was observed was the Criminal Prison, while the smallest was at the P. and O. Wharf in New Harbour. June, October, November, and December were the wet months; January, February, March, and July the dry ones.

The mean temperature of the year was at 9 a.m. 81° 7′, at 3 p.m. 83° 9′, at 9 p.m. 77° 6′. The maximum temperature registered was 88° 4′ in the month of May, the minimum 71° in the month of February. The variation between these figures and the corresponding ones for the previous year is but trifling.

Miscellaneous.

So full accounts have been published in the Parliamentary Blue Books of the occurrences in the neighbouring Native States during the year 1876 that there seems to be no need to notice them here.

The peace of Singapore was disturbed on the 15th December by a Chinese riot, which was suppressed by the vigorous action of the police, though not, unfortunately, without loss of life.

Fresh disappointment was in store for the Singapore Public respecting the waterworks, which were at one time confidently expected to be opened by the close of the year. But the collapse of one of the low level reservoirs, and the general failure of the foundation of the engine and boiler house again caused delay, necessitating the removal of the machinery and the underpinning of the foundations of the buildings.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

Singapore, 21st September 1877.

No. 20.

PENANG.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue, which amounted to $486,424 63, showed an augmentation over that of the preceding year of $29,380 24.

2. Under nine heads of revenue, there was a total increase of $33,193 45, and under four heads there was a falling off of $3,813 21. Land Revenue took the lead of the heads of increase, with a rise of $20,636 28. Special receipts exhibited an increment of $3,781 17; stamps of $3,194 37; licenses farmed out, $2,301 50; rents, exclusive of land, $1,307; postage, $1,216 16; fees of office, $281; port and harbour dues, $263 71; and miscellaneous receipts, $211 78.

3. The principal decrease, which was $1,501 33, took place under the head of reimbursements; there was also a decrease under the heads of "fines, forfeitures, and fees of court," "interest," and "sale of Government property" of $1,394 41, $827 17, and $90 30 respectively.

4. Fees under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance increased by $4,868 94; lock hospital charges recovered by $1,020 20; and these increments, together with the sum of $67 57, the tenth of an intestate estate, which reverted to the Crown, account for the total increment under the head "special receipts." The increase under "stamps" was from revenue stamps $54 82, and from judicial stamps, $2,007 50; and that under "licenses farmed out" accrued from an increment in the receipts from the opium and spirit farm, of $255, from the toddy and bhang farm of

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$2,007 50, and from public eating-houses of $39. $263 on account of public buildings, and $1,004 on account of ferries, made up the increment from rent. Poundage on stray animals, and miscellaneous, respectively $181 73 and $99 75, together give the total increase under the head "fees of office." The miscellaneous receipts were swelled by an augmentation of $138 65, collected as toll on cattle passing over the Muda Bund, and of $73 01 from petty receipts.

5. Under "reimbursements" there were the following increments: from the police, $67 95, on account of constables engaged for private individuals; from the medical department, $1,208 87, for hospital charges; from import and export returns, furnished to subscribers, $119; from survey fees, $713 42; and from miscellaneous sources, $440 20. There were, under the same head, the following abatements: in the gaol receipts, $1,887 12; in the contribution from the municipality, $1,680 34; in subscriptions for pauper asylums, $476 81; and in receipts from the sale of maps and plans, $650.

6. The fines, forfeitures, and fees of court were increased by $920, in the magistrates' courts; but a reduction of $2,144 in their amount in the Supreme Court, and of $176 22 in the police department, less the small increase of $5 (miscellaneous), account for the total decrease noted under this head.

The falling off of "interest" was due to less revenue remaining in hand at the bank.

The small difference in the realization of Government property was on account of miscellaneous items.

7. The other increments and decrements will be found accounted for under the headings of the respective departments in which they took place.

8. The opium, spirit, and pawnbrokers' farms were relet, at the end of the year, for a term of three years, commencing 1st January 1877, and realised as follows:—

	$	
Opium farm - -	257,592	per annum.
Spirit farm - -	126,300	„
Pawnbrokers' farm -	17,280	„
Total - -	401,172	„

showing together an increase of $152,082 per annum, or of more than one third of the present rent obtained from them, or of 31·28 per cent. of the whole revenue of the Settlement in 1875.

9. The toddy and bhang farm was not re-let, the term of its contract not expiring until the end of 1877.

10. The expenditure exhibited a decrease of $27,547 82 attributable, almost entirely, to a reduction in the outlay on works and buildings, for there was an increase (under 11 heads) amounting to $15,887 07, and exclusive of "works and buildings," the decrease (which occurred under six heads) was only $2,722 27.

11. The increase is observable under the following heads: pensions, gratuities, and superannuation allowances, $277 83; revenue services, exclusive of establishments, $2,348 95; ecclesiastical, $394 24; education, $1,009 93; medical, $4,184 20; police, $1,281; harbour department, $380 43; government vessels, $3,672 38; conveyance of mails, $392 33; transport, $818 99; miscellaneous services, $1,126 79.

12. The six heads of decrease referred to, were as follow: salaries, $1,220 80; office contingencies, $30 93; ecclesiastical, $565 86; charitable allowances, $103 33; gaols, $587 57; rent, $213 78.

13. Salaries showed an increase of $6,668 80, with a decrease of $7,889 60. The increase and decrease took place in the following departments:—

Increase.—Lieutenant-Governor's, $50 86; land, $74 08; registration $215 12; sheriff's, $201 26; ecclesiastical, $2,420 70; medical, $3,034 42; gaol, $670 38.

Decrease.—Treasury, $37 30; public works and survey, $3,084 61; judge's, $1,062 98; registrars', $474 71; Solicitor General's, $63 54; magistrates' (Penang), $598 15; magistrates' (Province Wellesley), $387 15; police (Penang) $62 79; police (Province Wellesley), $748 04.

Local Revenue.

14. There was an increase in the municipal revenue, from the following sources: assessment on houses in town, $1,724 37; on houses in the country in Prince of Wales Island, $2,011; on houses in the country in Province Wellesley, $165; on lands in Prince of Wales Island, $1,255 10; on lands in Province Wellesley, $2,002 55; taxes on private carriages in Prince of Wales Island, $1,082 10; on licensed carriages in Province Wellesley, $329 89; rent of market in town, $1,305; of public baths, $465 49; of ground at Prangin, $360, &c. There was a decrease as follows: taxes on licensed carriages, Prince of Wales Island, $195 54; cemetery fees, $392 60; fines inflicted in the police court in Prince of Wales Island, $1,049 08; taxes on private carriages in Province Wellesley, $185 35, and on carts, $190 97.

15. The balance shows a net increase of collections during the year of $8,384 36, the collections having been $123,809 34 as against $115,424 98 in 1875. A balance was brought over, from the year 1875, of $9,114 72, making the whole year's revenue $132,924 06.

16. The total expenditure was $130,843 50, leaving a balance to be brought over to the year 1877 of $2,080 56.

17. The principal items of increase in the expenditure are: commission on collections, $590 30; enlarging and repairing municipal office, $632 80; counsel's fees,$ 682; interest, $972 16; discharged debentures, $3,000; salaries of a fitter, and of an

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assistant fitter for the water works, $1,239; new water pipes, $12,935 55; expenses towards new water works, $573 51; constructing a new wharf at the jetty, $2,794 32; constructing public latrines, $623 67; opening new roads, $3,751 16; repairs to bridges, including $4,718 22 for Penang bridge alone, $10,330 34; expenses of the introduction of new immigrant coolies, $1,692 16; rents of ferries, paid over to Government, $1,253 50.

18. The total expenditure of the year 1875 was $124,334 08; and for further comparison's sake the revenue ($66,344 32, just half that of the past year) and the expenditure ($66,135 73) of the year (1867) of the transfer of the Settlement to the Colonial Government are here inserted.

Although, under the Municipal Act, it is incumbent on the Municipal Commissioners to keep in repair the roads in Province Wellesley, the Government has, for many years, come to their assistance, and relieved them of the expense of doing so, at a cost to the Government of $1,920 per annum, for the salaries of an overseer and two assistant overseers, and of, on the average of the last seven years, $35,000* per annum, for labour, materials, &c.

19. The municipal collections, in Province Wellesley, amounted to $24,986 50, or only about one-fifth of the whole collections, it is clear, therefore, that had all the collections in the province been expended on the roads, without this assistance from Government, there would hitherto have been a deficiency of means to defray the expenditure required for them.

20. The municipality is required by law to make an annual contribution towards the cost of the police, including that of its establishments, but not including the salaries of the police magistrates. Until lately this contribution was fixed at $40,164, but this amount was reduced to $20,000 on an arrangement being made to commute the difference for the sum collected as fines and forfeitures, &c. in the police magistrates' courts, which had up to that time been according to law paid into the municipal fund. The amount thus collected was $180,842 81,† so that the actual contribution received by Government towards the cost of the police was $38,042 81, thus showing a balance favourable to the municipality by this new arrangement of $2,121 19.

21. The cost of the police, as chargeable against the municipality under section 28 of Indian Act, 27 of 1856, was $74,342, which sum was made up of the following items:— Salaries of police, with the exception of the salary of the superintendent, omitted in compliance with the Act, $52,012; services exclusive of establishments, $12,532; transport, $3,000; rent, $540; magistrates' establishments in Prince of Wales Island and Province Wellesley, exclusive of the magistrates' salaries, also omitted in accordance with the Act, $7,682. From the above it will be seen that out of a total sum of $113,846 15, a sum only $9,963

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* In 1875, the sum expended was $45,608 58.

† $13,145 94 in Prince of Wales Island, and $4,896 81 in Province Wellesley.

less than the whole municipal collections of the year, and representing the liabilities of the Municipal Commissioners on account of the cost of the police force, and of the upkeep of the roads and bridges in Province Wellesley, the share paid during the year by Government was $75,803 34, whereas that paid by the municipality including police court fees was only $38,042 81.

22. The cost of the police, including that of the magistrates' establishment in Province Wellesley alone, was $27,942 23, or more than the whole of the municipal revenue of that dependency.

23. This comparison of the receipts of the municipality with its expenditure and with the expenditure of the Government in its behalf in Province Wellesley, has been thus fully entered into because it has often been held that the Province has not had annually expended on it an amount fairly proportioned to the annual municipal collections made in it.

24. In this comparison no account has been taken of a house allowance of $480 to the police magistrate, Prince of Wales' Island, and of $180 to the magistrate, Province Wellesley, of travelling allowance of $1,500 for the magistrate, Province Wellesley, nor for new buildings, and the "upkeep" of buildings for the magistrates and police amounting to over $1,500, all of which were paid by Government.

Public Works.

25. The most important of the new works executed during the year were the construction of a quarantine station at Pulo Jerajah; the improvement of the water supply of the Leper establishment, also at Pulo Jerajah; and the building of a police station at Arakuda in Province Wellesley.

26. The works at the new prison at Datu Kramat were, for want of funds, discontinued for some time, and before they were recommenced considerable alterations were made in the original intentions regarding the premises to be occupied for prison purposes, and the detail arrangements of them. It was originally intended that the civil hospital should remain where it is at present, that the old abandoned civil hospital near the infantry lines should be converted into the lock hospital, and that the present gaol at Chowrasta should be converted into a police station, with a building for an "examination room," under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, added at the back of it. It was, however, found that there would not be sufficient accommodation for the increased number of criminal prisoners as well as that required in order to carry out the separation of the different classes and sexes of prisoners, and for their hospital treatment and supervision, without including within the precincts of the gaol the present general civil hospital. It was therefore decided to re-raise the wall of the civil hospital to the same height as that of the new gaol, of which it forms a continuation, and to appropriate the buildings within it to the purposes of the new gaol hospital, and to convert the present gaol at Chowrasta into a general civil hospital in which there will be ample accommodation for the lock

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patients as well as for the "examination room." In the meantime it was found necessary, as a temporary measure, to adapt the old abandoned civil hospital to the purposes of quarters for the staff sergeants of the 74th Regiment, which is quartered in the neighbouring barracks. This alteration of the former plans will be the means of effecting a considerable saving out of the original estimated cost of providing gaol, general, and lock hospital accommodation.

27. The whole expenditure on works and buildings (civil) was $27,646, a little less than the average expended during the last six years, and less than half the sum expended in 1875 which was $60,603 54, of which a great part was specially voted for the erection of the 200 separate cells and the main wall of the new gaol.

28. Additional accommodation was demanded by the military authorities for the troops on account of this Settlement being made the temporary head quarters of a regiment, and this necessitated a heavier expenditure on military works than would otherwise have been required. The amount thus expended was $6,459. The new mess house with four officers' quarters attached, which was commenced in 1875, was completed, and the old mess house was converted into a quarter for the commanding officer.

29. On "roads and bridges," with the exception of about $1,500, disbursed for the upkeep of the bridle road up Penang Hill, the sum of $37,872 was expended in Province Wellesley. This expenditure is about $3,000 more than the average of the preceding six years, but $7,736 less than was expended in the previous year. There was a slight increase in the expenditure on the special repairs and maintenance of these roads, but fewer new works and alterations were undertaken than in 1875. The works performed by the Public Works Department were: making a quay at the landing place at Sunghy Rambay village; re-metalling part of the road near Ayer Gading; and extending the southern main road from Nebong Tubal to Permatang Brimbang. Owing to the failure of the contractor to perform his engagements, the road from Bagan Ajam through Teluk Ayer Tawar to Penaga was not metalled.

30. The approaches to the proposed bridge over the Prye River were proceeded with in the early part of the year, but it having been represented that in consequence of the establishment by a company of steam ferry communication with the more direct route to the south of the province, the need of a bridge was no longer urgent, the works in connexion with this undertaking, on which $11,784 had already been laid out, were suspended.

Survey Branch.

31. The ill-health of the assistant-surveyor caused a decrease in the amount of work performed in this branch.

32. The area of allotment surveys was 3,900 acres. The services of one of the measurers, who should have been employed on this work, were required for special survey duty.

33. There were fewer private surveys, and the area of them amounted to only 85 acres.

34. The special surveys were the circuit surveys of the districts near Arakuda in the north, and of Pah Booey and Bukit Tamboon in the south of Province Wellesley, and also the survey of a portion of the newly acquired territory of Trans-Krean.

35. Stations were fixed for the trigonometrical survey on the tops of Bukit Mertajam, Bukit Panchore, Bukit Goah Coolim, Bukit Barratore, and Bukit Rokan in Province Wellesley, and on two hills in the Kedah Territory. The triangulation survey of the settlement will be proceeded with on the arrival of a 12-inch theodolite which has been ordered from England.

36. The town survey was continued, and about 31 acres of its detail were completed.

Gaols.

37. The conduct of the prison staff was, on the whole, very satisfactory. The newly appointed gaoler assumed his duties on the 1st August, and was active and zealous in the performance of them.

There were some complaints against the native warders, but their conduct was, on the whole, about as satisfactory as during previous years.

38. The general conduct of the criminal prisoners was good, and no offence of a serious nature was committed by any of them during the year. The total number of prisoners reported for breaches of prison discipline was 352, or 21·11 per cent., of whom 263 were punished, 98 with corporal punishment not exceeding 30 stripes, but the greater part of that number with not exceeding six stripes.

39. No escapes occurred during the year. All prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisoment, except such as had been exempted by order of the medical officer, were employed at stone-breaking, Prisoners for whom light work was ordered were, for the most part, employed on gaol services.

40. Ten deaths occurred from natural causes during the year.

41. The numbers of prisoners of both sexes admitted during the years 1875 and 1876 were respectively as follows:—

Males - -	1,506	1,632
Females - -	16	34
	1,522	1,666

showing an increase during last year of 127 males and 18 females.

42. Of the total number admitted during the year, 23·87 per cent. were re-convictions.

43. The proportion of sick admitted into hospital to the total number of prisoners was 29·39 per cent.

44. Twenty-one prisoners were transferred to Singapore, at a cost of $486 26, or $6 95½ per head.

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45. The number of criminal prisoners remaining in gaol at the end of 1875 was 198, and the number admitted during 1876, of whom 34 were females, was 1,667; the greatest number confined at any one time was 278, the daily average having been 214·22. 51 persons were sentenced by the Supreme Court, 709 by the magistrates of Prince of Wales Island, 744 by the magistrates of Province Wellesley, 52 by the marine magistrate, 104 by the military, and two by the naval authorities, and five by the court of quarter sessions.

46. There were 1,269 persons sentenced to less than three months' imprisonment, 207 to three and under six months, 135 to six months and under one year, 25 to one year and under five years, 28 to over five years, and three were sentenced for life.

47. Nine criminals were under 15, and 89 between 15 and 20 years of age; 155 were Europeans, 693 Chinese, 141 Malays, and 678 Klings and other nationalities.

48. Two hundred and four were in prison for the second time; 194 had previously been twice or more frequently imprisoned. Only 295 could read and write.

49. Seven were ticket-of-leave convicts.

50. The total cost of the maintenance of the gaol, including the prison staff, was $17,211 34; but against this there were receipts amounting to $4,708 20, of which $2,404 45 were for prison labour, the actual cost of the upkeep of the gaol was, therefore, $12,503 14.

51. The conduct of the civil prisoners was good. Three cases of breach of prison discipline among them were reported during the year. These cases were investigated by the visiting justices, and, in each instance, punishment was awarded.

52. The greatest number of prisoners confined at any one time in the civil prison was 40, and the average daily number confined in it was 23·56.

53. Three prisoners, sentenced to death, were executed, and one prisoner, so sentenced, had his sentence commuted to penal servitude for life.

Land.

54. The revenue from land, which amounted to $74,162 92, showed an increase of $21,893 69. There was an increase of $27,827 43 from land sales, $2,803 12 from "premiums on leases," $255 50 from "sale of red earth, sand, and granite," $609 70 from timber royalties, and $403 40 from miscellaneous receipts. There was a decrease of $3,574 05 from quit rents, $409 17 from beach rents, $44 60 from "grazing lands and gardens," $78 from fees on issue of leases, $46 50 from fees for search, registration, &c., and $6,929 14 from tenths on tin.

Of the whole, Prince of Wales Island contributed $22,761 75, and Province Wellesly $51,401 17.

55. The increase in the amount obtained from the sale of land was due to the sale of 9,831 acres for the sum of $27,408, in Province Wellesley, and of 66 acres for the sum of $116 in Prince

of Wales Island, to a gentleman who had inherited the "permits" to clear and occupy the land. These "permits" had been issued in 1867, while the Settlement was under the Indian Government, and the delay in concluding the purchase was due to the inability of the Government, in consequence of the deficient state of the Survey Department, to have the land surveyed.

56. A greater number of leases were issued, and higher rates were obtained for the granite, timber (at Pulo Pankore), and sea sand (for ballast), farms.

Post Office.

57. The number of letters received and despatched by this department increased by about 10 per cent., and the revenue derived from them increased at a like rate. The postal communications with Sumatra, and with the native states of the Peninsula, were greatly improved, and contributed considerably to the increased business of the office.

58. The money order transactions with the United Kingdom decreased, owing, in a great measure, to the general depression of trade, and to the depreciation in the value of silver. A change in the previously established rate for post office orders, which had become more favourable to the remitter than the bank rates of exchange, also contributed to this decrease. The local money order business was, however, productive of an increase.

59. In Province Wellesley, although some difficulty was experienced in the proper working of the district offices, owing to the want of competent sub-postmasters, an increase took place in the correspondence, and the revenue obtained covered all the expenses of these post offices.

Education.

60. A further increase in the accommodation of the free school, which had become necessary on account of the increase in the number of pupils, was met by the liberality of Mr. Cheang Hong Lim, of Singapore, who presented to the institution the munificent gift of $3,000, the exact sum required to meet the cost of the construction of an additional wing to accommodate 100 boys. This new wing is being constructed on the other side of the master's house, or central block, from the new wing added about two years ago. It will be constructed a little narrower than the new wing, but not perceptibly so, but this arrangement of it will afford more accommodation, as it will be constructed without the pillars which so considerably diminish the space, and are so inconvenient, in the three other blocks. The following further handsome donations were presented to the funds of this school:—

By Mr. Tan Beng Swee, of Singapore, $400; the opium and spirit farmers of Penang, $500; Mr. Ohlvee Kee, $100; Mr. Vana Coopah Pitchay, $50; the Rajah of Rendong's brother, $30; the chitties of Penang, $150; freemason's lodge, $50; and the pawnbroker's farm, $50.

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61. The number of boys on the school register rose to 553. The inspector of schools reports that, as compared with the previous year, the number of boys who presented themselves for examination was 315, against 275, and that 810 passes were awarded, against 749. Steps are being taken to obtain from England an additional English teacher. The lending library for the pupils, which was established a year ago, appears to have been fully appreciated, the boys of the upper classes having taken out a considerable number of the books.

Judicial.

Supreme Court.

62. The Puisne Judge of Penang resigned at the end of March, after which the duties of the Judge were performed intermittingly by the Puisne Judge of Singapore, who also acted for some time, towards the end of the year, as Chief Justice, and occasionally by the Solicitor-General as Acting Puisne Judge.

63. The Puisne Judge who resigned was re-appointed at the end of the year, but being required to act as Chief Justice at Singapore, he did not return to Penang.

64. The criminal calendar of the Supreme Court was a comparatively light one. 65 persons were convicted, out of which number 3 were sentenced to death, 54 to rigorous imprisonment, 2 to fine, 1 was sentenced to penal servitude, and 1 to simple imprisonment. Against 22 persons there was entered a "nolle prosequi," the cases against 2 were postponed, and 37 persons were acquitted.

65. Of the above convictions, 3 were for culpable homicide, 2 for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, 2 for "grievous hurt by means of instrument for cutting," 6 for "other offences against the person," 44 for "other offences against property," 8 for miscellaneous offences.

66. Three prisoners entered into recognizances to appear when called upon to have sentence passed on them, and 1 prisoner, in addition to the above, was sentenced to undergo so much of his punishment as he had not already undergone, for violation of the condition of remission of a former sentence.

67. The summary side of the Supreme Court was, by an Ordinance passed at the close of the year, done away with, and the Court of Requests in Prince of Wales' Island was re-established with summary jurisdiction up to $50. The Court of Quarter Sessions also underwent a change in its organisation, which provided for its being held before two magistrates instead of before a puisne judge and a magistrate.

Magistrates' Courts.

68. In the magistrates' court in Prince of Wales' Island the number of cases disposed of during the year was 7,376, being 151 more than in the previous year and 566 more than in 1874. Of these cases, in which 61 persons were implicated, 34 were committed to the assizes.

69. There were 10,963 persons apprehended by the police and brought before the magistrate during the year 1876, 10,500 in 1875, and 10,195 in 1874. Of the number apprehended in 1876, 4,567 were convicted, against 4,471 and 4,674 respectively in the two preceding years.

70. The number of persons committed to prison in pursuance of sentence was 465, and for nonpayment of fine 254, making a total of 719, or an increase over the preceding year of 27.

71. The fines in 1876 amounted to $12,714 41, being an increase over those in 1875 of $1,062 37, and less than those in 1874 by $1,623 13.

72. The fees received were in excess of the two preceding years, amounting to—

	$
In 1876 - - - -	3,627 51
„ 1875 - - - -	3,346 70
„ 1874 - - - -	2,706 70

73. On the 1st December the police magistrate assumed the duties of protector of immigrants under the Immigration Ordinance, in addition to those of his own office. At the same time the old Court of Requests, which, in the previons year, had, in Prince of Wales' Island, been merged in the summary side of the Supreme Court, was revived, and under these circumstances it was found necessary to appoint an assistant magistrate, who, as well as the junior magistrate, was appointed a Commissioner of the Court of Requests.

74. It has been contemplated to increase the jurisdiction of this court to sums not exceeding $100; this proposal, if carried out, would, it is believed, confer a great benefit on suitors who at present often forego part of their claims so as to bring the amounts within the jurisdiction of the Courts of Requests, where their cases are disposed of more expeditiously than in the Supreme Court.

75. The Court of Quarter Sessions was finally closed at the end of the year. Owing to the absence of a puisne judge to sit as president, and to the acting judge, through pressure of work, not having time to attend to the Court of Quarter Sessions, that court was not found to have been of any practical use. 45 cases were committed by the magistrate during the year to the Court of Quarter Sessions, but most of them were returned to be disposed of in the police court. 2 magistrates sitting together now dispose of such cases, and delay in bringing a prisoner to trial is consequently avoided.

76. In Province Wellesley the total number of cases was 2,996; of these 2,073 were police cases and 923 summons cases; this shows an increase of 102 summons cases over the number in the previous year, but the number of police cases was the same as in 1875. The increase in the number of summons cases may be attributed to various causes, but particularly to the change of proprietorship in the opium farm, which caused a feud between some of the members of the late and the partners of the present

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farm, resulting in serious charges and countercharges against each other, and also to the disputes which have constantly occurred in regard to land in the Trans-Krean Territory, in consequence of the boundary question having been undecided. The introduction of the Immigration Ordinance and the increase of smuggling in Province Wellesley have also been the cause of some additional cases.

77. The number of persons who were committed for trial before the Supreme Court was 65, as against 89 committed in 1875.

78. The number of summary convictions was 1,918, as against 2,077 in 1875, viz. :—

—	1875.	1876.
Offences against the person - - - -	364	393
Offences against property, other than arson - -	210	283
Offences against Masters' and Servants' Acts, includ- Acts relating to Indian Coolies.	1,510	524
Other offences - - - - -	—	718

79. The number of persons committed to gaol was 1,542, viz., in pursuance of sentence, 494 ; in default of fine or surety, 1,048 ; comparing this with the numbers committed in 1875, there is an increase of 865, viz. :—

—	1875.	1876.
In pursuance of sentence - - -	530	494
In default of fine or surety - - -	147	1,048
	677	1,542

Harbour Department, Shipping, &c.

80. The increase of $734 65 in the revenue of the " Harbour, Shipping, and Import and Export " Department was due to the following increments :—Straits light dues, $711 24; pilot licenses, $22 ; registration of cargo boats, $142 50 ; registration of fishing stakes, $190 ; sale of import and export lists, $119 ; fees for telegraph messages to Penang Hill, $6 60 ; passengers' boats, $121 50 ; fishing boats, $76 50 ; fines and forfeitures by marine magistrate, $75 50 ; freight by Government steamers, $75.

81. The following decrements have however, to be deducted :— Registration of vessels, $53 50 ; surveying and measuring, $48 ; shipping fees, $216 53 ; fees for surveying passenger ships, $376 25 ; beaching vessels, $12 50 ; unclaimed estates of deceased seamen ; $42 66 ; sale of government property, $55 75. The increase in the number and tonnage of vessels that entered the port is represented by the numbers 297 and 115,490 respectively ; and the increase in the number and tonnage of those that cleared outwards, by the figures 334 and 130,667 respectively.

82. The increase "inwards," consisted of three ships and 335 steamers; and the decrease, of 20 schooners, 12 brigs, and nine barques; the increase "outwards," of four barques, four ships, 350 steamers; and the decrease, of 16 schooners and 12 brigs.

83. The number of steamers that entered the port was 1,323, and the number that cleared from it was 1,321; the former of an aggregate tonnage of 796,924, and the latter of 799,050.

84. The numbers of native crafts that entered the port were as follows:—With cargo, 1,089 (tonnage 34,782, total number of crews, 10,677); in ballast, 100 (tonnage 1,540, total number of crews, 576); or a total of 1,189, with a tonnage of 36,322, and a total of crews numbering 11,453. The numbers of native crafts that cleared outwards were, with cargo, 1,985 (tonnage 54,212, total number of crews, 17,828); in ballast, 63 (tonnage 1,365, total number of crews, 505); or a total of 2,048, with a tonnage of 55,577, and a total of crews numbering 18,333.

Imports and Exports.

85. The value of the imports and exports together was $32,451,394, being a decrease, compared with the previous year, of $2,932,885.

86. The value of the imports alone was $15,863,873; this shows a decrease of $386,695.

87. The decrease took place principally in the imports from British India, $381,890; China, $77,668; French India, $65,194; Malayan Peninsula, $86,315; Sumatra, $1,159,640; Maldive Islands, $16,400; and Turkey, $31,300; this decrease was thus locally distributed.

	$
British Colonies - - -	381,890
Foreign countries - -	1,449,747

88. The articles of import in the value of each of which there was a decrease greater than $10,000 are the following:—

	Decrease.		Decrease.
	$		$
Birds feathers -	18,770	Lard - -	10,490
Bricks and tiles -	15,379	Matches - -	10,092
Copper ware -	18,249	Nutmegs - -	27,874
Cotton goods -	371,770	Opium (Benares) -	172,759
Cotton thread -	14,668	„ (Persian) -	29,050
Cordage - -	15,826	„ (Turkey) -	30,030
Dammer torches -	15,157	Paddy - -	24,247
Earthenware -	27,923	Peas - -	16,282
Flour - -	26,670	Pepper - -	1,425,867
Fruits, preserved -	13,326	Provisions, fresh -	15,213
Gambier - -	10,705	Shells, of sorts -	17,113
Gold thread and lace	18,545	Silk thread -	11,710
Guano - -	13,157	Silk, raw - -	40,259
Gunnies - -	28,706	Stick-lac - -	14,977
Hardware - -	12,142	Sugar candy -	14,440
Hides - -	58,233	Tin - -	119,272
Horses and ponies -	12,191	Woollen goods -	18,814

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89. The articles in the value of each of which a less decrease took place are:—Apparel (wearing), beche-de-mer, birds' nests, brassware, canvas, cigars, felt, ghee, gin, hats and caps, horns, (rhinoceros), joss-sticks, kerosine, paraffin, nutmeg, and other sorts of oil, paints, paper, perfumery, silver thread, sugar, twine, vinegar, wine (sherry), wood (sandal and sawn timber).

90. There was an increase in the value of imports from,

	$
British Burmah of - - -	229,815
Hong Kong - - -	389,466
Singapore and Malacca - -	341,975
Arabia - - - -	15,713
Japan - - - -	21,175
Java - - - -	21,532

91. The articles of import in which the greatest increase took place, are:—

	$		$
Areca nuts - -	148,941	Malt liquor - -	35,075
Benjaman - -	13,348	Medicine - -	18,544
Candles - -	10,876	Oilmen's stores -	15,954
Camphor - -	19,248	Provisions, preserved	67,469
Chillies - -	13,900	Rattans - -	29,725
Coal - -	110,419	Rice - -	213,768
Coffee - -	15,153	Salt - -	16,025
Cotton twist -	12,610	Serpentine stones -	16,250
Cotton wool -	22,585	Silk - -	123,385
Dates - -	11,777	Specie - -	608,298
Fireworks - -	66,631	Tea - -	54,524
Glass and glassware	11,519	Tobacco - -	365,949
Iron, assorted -	181,934	Wine of sorts -	27,910
Joss paper - -	20,471	Wheat - -	62,448

92. The articles in each of which the value of the increase was less than $10,000 are:—Arms, arrack, beeswax, books, boots and shoes, brandy, carpets, cattle, clocks and watches, copperah, fruits fresh, gram and dholl, gutta percha, horns (buffaloes'), iron (nails and nail rod), isinglass, Kachang oil, lead (pig), mat bags, musical instruments, provisions salt, seeds (coriander), twine, tallow, tamarind, unbrellas, wine (port and claret).

93. The value of the exports was $16,587,521, or a decrease of $2,546,190 compared with the previous year.

94. The decrease in the exports took place in those to the following places:—

	$
United Kingdom - - -	1,015,874
British India - - -	93,215
Hong Kong - - -	600,714
America - - - -	241,622
French India - - -	21,080
Holland - - - -	111,006
Malay Peninsula - - -	358,808
Siam - - - -	642,797

95. The articles of export, in which a decrease is shown, are:—

	$		$
Bark, mangrove -	22,138	Opium (Benares) -	146,684
Benjaman - -	22,925	„ (Persian) -	11,485
Bird's nests -	38,413	„ (Turkey) -	23,840
Camphor - -	12,390	Paints - -	12,589
Cotton goods -	404,488	Pepper - -	1,105,766
Gold thread, &c. -	31,595	Sharks' fins and skate skins - -	36,763
Hides - -	42,532	Shells of sorts -	29,357
Horns, (rhinoceros)	10,625	Silk, raw - -	10,135
Jewellery - -	67,703	Tin - -	600,130
Mace - -	22,729	Tobacco - -	421,267
Nutmegs - -	28,829		

96. Under the value of $10,000 there was a decrease in the value of each of the following articles:—Apparel (wearing), birds' feathers, brassware, bricks and tiles, cotton goods, cotton thread, cotton twist, earthenware, fishmaws, hardware, iron (bar and bolt), matches, peas, salt, stick-lac, stones, (precious).

97. There was an increase in the exports to the following places:—

	$
Arabia - - - -	14,301
China - - - -	47,963
Java - - - -	161,108
Sumatra - - - -	325,532

98. The following are the articles of export in which an increase took place:—

	$		$
Areca nuts - -	34,916	Provisions, fresh -	15,018
Candles - -	28,951	„ salt -	68,373
Cattle - -	182,087	Rice - -	324,539
Cocoanuts - -	11,560	Silk - -	21,715
Coffee - -	43,166	Stones, serpentine -	19,100
Cotton wool -	78,437	Sugar - -	129,092
Fireworks - -	14,634	Swine - -	42,706
Fish, dry or salted -	14,742	Tea - -	26,828
Gin - -	22,474	Umbrellas (paper) -	10,679
Iron, assorted -	10,516	Vegetables - -	27,083
Kachang oil -	11,805	Wine, claret -	19,428
Malt liquor - -	13,196	Wood (sawn timber)	13,347
Poultry - -	26,028		

99. The increase in the value of the exports of each of the following articles did not reach $10,000:—Arrack, catechu, copperah, curry stuff, dates, fruits (fresh and preserved), horns (buffalo), indigo, kerosine and paraffin oils, lead (pig), onions and garlic, paddy, paper, rattans, rum, soap, tapioca, wheat, wood (fire), wood of sorts.

(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieutenant-Governor.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 21.

MALACCA. Lieutenant-Governor ANSON, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Singapore,
October 12, 1877.

MY LORD,

REFERRING to my Despatch of the 28th September, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Malacca, on the Blue Book of that Settlement, for the year 1876.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Administrator.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

MALACCA.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1876.

The revenue of the year, which amounted to $109,083 50, was less than that of the previous year by $7,970 63.

The following comparative statement exhibits in detail the increase and decrease of the revenue collected during the year :—

—	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Land revenue - - -	25,569 34	19,838 44	—	5,730 90
Rent exclusive of land - -	143 0	148 0	5 0	—
Licenses farmed out - -	68,953 0	68,471 0	—	482 0
Stamps - - -	11,945 99	9,427 32	—	2,518 67
Port and harbour dues - -	353 47	335 34	—	18 13
Postage - - -	565 69	841 25	275 56	—
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of courts.	2,480 30	3,108 65	628 35	—
Fees of office - - -	341 0	290 25	—	50 75
Reimbursements on account of miscellaneous departments.	5,308 01	4,877 24	—	430 77
Sale of Government property -	6 0	279 22	273 22	—
Interest - - - -	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous receipts - -	50 03	761 23	711 20	—
Special receipts - - -	1,338 30	705 56	—	632 74
Total - -	117,054 13	109,083 50	1,893 33	9,863 96

The decrease under the head of "Licenses farmed out" was owing to the toddy and bhang farm having realised less than for the previous year. Also the rent of the farm for November 1874,

$93 was paid in 1875, which increases the revenue under that head.

A reduction of $2,518 67 is observable in the receipts for stamps, but it must be borne in mind that an unusual amount was received in 1875 on account of judicial stamps, the probate of one property alone added to the revenue the sum of $3,221.

The stamp accounts for the two years show the following :—

Description of Stamps.	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Revenue - - -	2,956 44	3,506 97	550 53	—
Judicial - - -	8,989 55	5,920 35	—	3,069 20
Total - -	11,945 99	9,427 32	550 53	3,069 20

The decrease under "Reimbursements" was owing to the municipality paying the previous year $1,000 monthly as contribution, and from 1st January 1875 only at the rate of $300. Government receiving fines, forfeitures, and fees of court previously paid to the municipality.

The heading "Special Receipts" represents the collections for the year made under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, of which there was a diminution of $632 74.

An increase of $628 35 was obtained under "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court" (*see* Comparative Statement).

"Miscellaneous Receipts" exhibit an increase of $711 20, owing partly to a refund of salary.

The expenditure was greater than that of the preceding year by $4,196 06.

The following statement exhibits in detail the increase and decrease of the expenditure, as compared with the previous year :—

Expenditure.	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Salaries - - -	64,669 68	69,124 94	4,455 26	—
Allowance - - -	—	—	—	—
Office contingencies - -	564 62	563 49	—	1 13
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities.	7,360 36	7,547 34	186 98	—
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	4,010 70	4,119 15	108 45	—
Administration of justice -	471 38	676 47	205 09	—
Ecclesiastical - - -	295 93	311 49	15 56	—
Charitable allowances - -	42 45	—	—	42 45
Education - - -	6,786 73	7,126 58	339 85	—
Medical - - -	4,693 12	4,512 12	—	181 0
Police and Gaols.				
Police - - - -	981 96	1,233 32	251 36	—
Gaols - - - -	2,393 05	3,286 62	893 57	—
Convict department - -	—	—	—	—

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Expenditure.	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
Marine Department.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Harbour department - -	653 98	612 18	—	41 80
Lighthouses - - -	—	1,325 13	1,325 13	—
Government vessels - -	—	114 30	114 30	—
Conveyance of mails - -	118 05	154 69	36 64	—
Rent - - - -	1,090 63	884 20	—	206 43
Transport - - -	5,242 84	6,212 81	969 97	—
Interest - - -	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous services - -	2,251 05	638 68	—	1,612 37
Works and buildings - -	14,742 44	12,317 44	—	2,425 0
Roads, streets, and bridges -	19,759 10	16,166 41	—	3,592 69
Lands and houses purchased -	—	—	—	—
Military expenditure - -	—	564 69	564 69	—
Special expenses - -	831 19	3,663 27	2,832 08	—
Total - -	136,959 26	141,155 32	12,298 93	8,102 87

The increase under "Salaries" is accounted for principally by the payment of the half salaries of the hon. the Lieutenant-Governor and the Collector of Land Revenue by the Crown Agents in England in 1875.

All payments made in 1875 on account of Marine Department, light houses, and government vessels were charged to the Singapore vote, which explains the reason why none appears to have been increased that year.

The increase of expenditure under "Special Expenses" was owing to certain refunds of revenue, and also to the Chinese riots.

A sum of $10,499 16 was advanced during the year on account of "Native States."

Local Revenue.

The following statement exhibits the revenue and expenditure of the municipality for the years 1875 and 1876:—

	1875.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
RECEIPTS.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Assessment on houses - -	9,078 30	9,130 89½	52 59½	—
Assessment on lands - -	1,491 59	1,428 31	—	63 28
Fees levied on private carriages, and horses.	1,382 47½	1,306 35	—	76 12½
Fees levied on registered carriages, horses, and carts.	5,066 37½	4,799 81½	—	266 56
Magistrates' fines, fees, and forfeitures.	131 92	—	—	131 92
Fees on stamps - - -	86 60	—	—	86 60
Fees for registration of hackney carriages and drivers.	253 60	214 15	—	39 45
Fees for registration of carts -	133 44	121 20	—	12 24
Fees for licensing slaughter-houses.	130 0	120 0	—	10 0
Fees for licensing dyeing-houses	25 0	20 0	—	5 0
Fees for licensing tallow melting.	60 0	60 0	—	—

	1875.	1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
RECEIPTS—*cont.*	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Fees for licensing temporary obstructions.	53 50	80 75	27 25	—
Rent on booths - - -	290 0	49 50	—	240 50
Rent of portions of roads for laying building materials.	19 50	36 50	17 0	—
License for erecting temporary shed.	15 50	17 0	1 50	—
Fees on distress warrants -	5 75	2 75	—	3 0
Sale of old ansanah trees -	18 0	23 0	5 0	—
Amount received from Assistant Colonial Treasurer for expenses incurred in taking precautionary measures agalnst the spread of cholera.	75 64	—	—	75 64
Sale of well for using the water	4 50	—	—	4 50
Amount received from Assistant Treasurer, defalcations of a clerk in magistrate's office.	64 0	—	—	64 0
Sale of the esplanade grass -	15 0	—	—	15 0
Magistrate's fine on a cart owner for breaking street lantern.	2 0	—	—	2 0
Sale of old water casks - -	—	3 0	3 0	—
Rent on new market - -	—	147 0	147 0	—
Total - -	18,402 69	17,560 22	253 34½	1,095 81½
EXPENDITURE.				
Contribution to police force -	4,300 0	3,600 0	—	700 0
Commisioner's Establishment.				
Fixed salaries - -	2,011 0	2,028 0	17 0	—
Contingent charges - -	1,193 56	779 60	—	413 96
Conservancy Department.				
Fixed salaries - - -	228 0	354 0	126 0	—
Contingent charges - -	7,491 38	13,244 87	5,753 49	—
Total - -	15,223 94	20,006 47	5,896 49	1,113 96

From the above it will be seen that there was a decrease of $842 47 in the receipts for the year 1876, while the expenditure for that year was greater by $4,782 53 over that of the previous year, which is mainly attributable to expenses incurred in taking precautionary and effectual measures against the spread of cholera, which broke out in the Settlement during this year.

Land.

The expenditure of the Land Office during the year 1876 amounted to $7,539 27, while that during the previous year to $6,813 18, showing an increase of $726 09, which was caused by certain salaries for 1875, then pending sanction, being drawn in 1876.

There was a decrease of $6,807 78 in the receipts, which is accounted for thus:—

Under the head of "Land Sales" the receipts for 1875 were $2,555 75, and that for the following year only $45; the reason

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of this great difference being that during 1876 3,620 acres 1 rood and 5 perches of land were granted on leases (previous to General Order 171) on the old term of 25 cents per acre, without any upset price, and also on account of the order to stop the issue of new leases.

The decrease of $1,347 96 under "Tenths commuted on Leases" was in consequence of the surrender of some expired leases and arrears, the greater part of which will be recovered in 1877.

The decrease of $1,009 40 under "Uncommuted Fruits" was on account of the difficulty experienced in collecting this kind of revenue, as most of the people refuse payment, and as there were doubts as to the legality of enforcing it in this case, as well as in several others, such as padi and other produce, Ordinances XI. and XV. of 1876 were passed to meet the requirements of Act XVI. of 1839, and it is hoped that, as soon as these Ordinances be put into force, immediate improvements will be the result.

Under the head of "Reimbursements, Survey, and Advertisement Fees," the decrease of $1,207 60 was chiefly caused by the stoppage of the issue of leases.

There was, however, an increase of $680 73 under "Uncovenanted Padi," which is accounted for by the collection of certain large outstanding arrears.

Public Works and Survey Departments.

1. The expenditure of $28,483 85 is less than that of the last three years, which was respectively $35,655 28, $30,543 30, and $39,323 57. There are two new works not completed amounting to $1,000 for the construction of a pauper shed and dressers' quarters attached to the general and pauper hospitals.

2. The most important works completed this year are those commenced in 1874 and 1875, viz., the new market, and the three new police stations at Malim, Soongey, Rambay, and Chin Chin.

3. Some additions and alterations were made to the prison and to the bungalow on St. Paul's Hill, and special repairs to the roof of the Christ Church, pauper hospital, two police stations, and police barracks, the extensive repair of the court house and offices attached, commenced in 1875, have also been completed this year.

4. The amount of $3,490 63 expended in the current repairs for the public buildings is a little more than that spent during any of the last three years, and the amount of $755 77 spent in minor works and alterations is considerably larger than any of the last three years which are respectively $468 28, $543 65, and $471 34.

5. The sum of $1,749 28 spent in military works during this year is larger than any of the last three years. In this expenditure is included special works to the barracks which were necessary.

The expenditure in minor works and current repairs is also a little more than any of the last three years.

6. The expenditure of $16,166 41 on roads, streets, and bridges is less than the average of the last three years, which are respectively $20,918 80, $15,577 76, and $14,363. This sum has been expended in the construction of eight timber platform bridges, in the upkeep of 160 miles of first-class roads, 112 miles of second-class roads, repairs to bridges, cleaning of rivers and canals, maintenance of Government cattle, providing residence for coolies, and cattle sheds and other desultory items, which generally come under this head of service.

Survey Branch.

The survey branch worked this year with a staff considerably below the authorised strength.

The allotments of cultivated lands surveyed amount to 1,978 square acres. Surveys of tapioca lands were taken up as applications were made, and the extent surveyed during the year amounts to 2,794 square acres of primitive forest. There were, besides, 1,917 acres of forest land surveyed and marked out for a Government reserve, and 6½ miles of main circuit survey. The survey fees received during the year amount to $252 90.

The working up of arrears in the records of the office was taken up from time so time, as opportunities offered, and good progress was made in this work without the aid of extra clerical or other assistance.

REPORT on the MALACCA POLICE ESTABLISHMENT for 1876.

Strength of the Police Force.

The strength of the Malacca police force consists of 1 superintendent, 2 inspectors, 2 sub-inspectors, 2 sergeant-majors, 4 sergeants, 29 corporals, and 194 constables.

The are 29 stations in the Settlement, including the one at Sempang on the Lingey River.

Revenue.

The revenue collected in the police department during the year was less than that of 1875. The principal decrease is under the head "Licenses, &c. under Contagious Diseases Ordinance," the cases under the Ordinance being now tried by the magistrate of police instead of by the registering officer.

Expenditure.

The cost for the maintenance of the police has been almost the same as in 1875.

Conduct of the Force.

The general conduct of the different members of the police force has been pretty fair during the past year, no serious charge having been preferred against any of them.

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Crimes.

There have been more cases of murder in 1876 than during 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874, with the exception of 1875, when the Chinese riots broke out. The other crimes reported have been of the usual class.

The Kongsees have given the police much trouble during the past year, but in November last the dangerous societies were registered without much difficulty.

Education.

The principal feature in regard to education during 1876 was the introduction of the system of payment by results of last year, which appears to have had some good effect in stimulating the various schools to increased exertion, though it is, of course, too soon to judge of its results.

The list of boys on the books shows a slight increase, the number being 261 against 257 in the previous year.

The large per-centage of failures at the annual inspection must be regarded as showing a very unsatisfactory state of things, and one which, especially under the present system, pains should be taken to remedy as soon as possible. It may be considered as in a great measure due to the inefficient grounding of the boys in the lower classes, the masters of which have frequently only a very imprefect knowledge of English themselves, and it may, I think, be hoped that the services of the new English master will do much towards removing these difficulties.

The income of the school showed a gratifying increase, amounting to $4,936 15 compared with $3,655 in 1875.

Vernacular.

The vernacular schools, though leaving a good deal to be desired, on the whole progressed fairly, with the exception of those at Allorgajah and Sungai Lidang, which fell off very considerably.

A new school was opened at Larei, with very fair prospects of success.

The great difficulty to be contended with, in the case of vernacular schools, is the irregularity of attendance, many boys attending regularly enough for a time and then absenting themselves for a corresponding period, during which they forget most of what they have previously learned.

Considerable difficulty is also experienced in obtaining the services of competent teachers, especially for these schools which are very distant in the country.

The school for Tamils in Tranquerah proved a failure, and was closed during the year.

Judicial.

The number of criminal cases sent up to the Supreme Court for trial at the two assizes held at Malacca in the year 1876 was 64, of which 25 were transferred to Singapore, owing to the very small and limited number of special jurors in Malacca to try them, as they were all capital offences, which, by the Criminal

Procedure Ordinance, could only be tried by special jurors. The number of cases so sent up being thus reduced to 39, the results were as follows:—19 convictions, 18 acquittals, 1 nolle prosequi, and 1 postponement.

The sentences passed in all the 19 cases were "rigorous imprisonment." Of the 19 offences for which sentences were so passed 1 was for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, 3 for grevious hurt by means of an instrument for cutting, 13 other offences against property, and 2 miscellaneous offences. This contrasts most unfavourably with the number of cases in 1875, when *only* 26 were entered, 9 of which resulted in convictions, 14 in acquittals, and 3 in nolle prosequi. But this vast increase of crime is chiefly to be attributed to the disturbed state of the country districts in Malacca, arising solely out of quarrels between two Chinese secret societies, called the Ho Beng and Ghe Boo.

On the plea and summary side of the court there were 34 cases tried in which the debt or damages claimed amounted to $9,210 89. Out of these 34 cases, 27 were judgment for the plaintiff, 5 were judgment for the defendant, and 2 were non-suited. The amount of debt or damages adjudged was $7,969 02. On the equity side there was only one case tried, in which no specific sum was claimed, as the petition was for partnership account, and it was decided in favour of the plaintiff for $186 46.

On the ecclesiastical side of the court there was a falling off in administration and probate cases filed by about one third in the former and one half in the latter. In the number of cases tried there was also a falling off to the same extent as compared with the year 1875. The number of administration cases filed in that year was 102, whilst in 1876 it was 73. So, with regard to the probate cases filed, in 1875 the number was 17, whilst in 1876 it was 9 only. The number of administration cases tried in 1875 was 86, whilst in 1876 it was 61. The number of probate cases tried in 1875 was 14, whilst in 1876 it was 7. The value of estates sworn in administration cases in 1875 was $190,571, whilst in 1876 it was $27,872. In probate cases in 1875 the amount was $83,600, whilst in 1876 it was $3,880. Of the administration cases not proceeded with there were 16, and of the probate cases 3.

There were 63 plea and 6 equity side actions and suits commenced during the year 1876, as against 45 plea side only in 1875. Of these cases, 12 plea side and 2 equity side were settled without trial, 23 plea side were judgment for plaintiff, 2 plea side were judgment for defendant, 2 plea side were non-suited, 24 plea side and 4 equity side were in dependence as against (in 1875) on the plea side alone, 13 settled without trial, 10 judgment for plaintiff, 2 judgment for defendant, 2 non-suited, and 18 left in dependence. The number of civil writs issued was 110, and of criminal writs 122; of bills of sale under Ordinance 22 of 1870, 64 were registered, as against 6 in 1875; 6 appeal cases were

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sent up and all 6 were heard and determined; 1 bankruptcy petition was filed, but is still in dependence.

Medical.

The daily average number of patients in all hospitals for the year 1876 has been 75·5. The number of admissions during the year was 433, the number of discharges 373, the number of deaths 39, and the number remaining at the close of the year 63.

Of the deaths, 36 occurred in the pauper hospital, 2 in the gaol, and 1 in the Leper Hospital.

The sanitary condition of the various hospitals has been good. The principal improvements during the year have been the building (now going on) of an additional ward in the compound of the general, police, and pauper hospitals, and also, in the same compound, of quarters for a dresser. There is still required a good fence round the compound to prevent the entrance and exit of patients at their own pleasure.

The daily average number of patients in the Leper Hospital has been 18·8, and the daily average of patients in the Lock Hospital has been 4·09.

The sanitary state of the town of Malacca has been about as usual. No epidemics have occurred during the year except one of measles towards the end of the year, and one of a dysenteric form of diarrhœa, principally in the country districts around Malacca, almost entirely confined to the Malay population.

Vaccination has been carried out during the year.

The annexed table gives the comparative statistics of the hospitals for 1875 and 1876.

—	Gaols.		Pauper, General, and Police.		Leper.		Lock.		Total.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
Daily average number of patients.	6·5	5·05	46·5	47·6	12	18·8	8·6	4·09	73·7	75·5
Number of admissions -	102	81	356	302	2	11	100	39	560	433
Number of discharges -	104	81	264	255	1	—	96	37	465	373
Number of deaths - -	3	2	69	36	1	1	—	—	73	39
Number of patients absconded.	—	—	27	16	—	—	—	—	27	16
Number of patients transferred.	5	1	11	2	—	2	—	—	16	5
Number of patients remaining at end of year - -	5	2	40	33	14	22	4	6	63	63
Number of cases of cholera treated.	2	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	19	—
Number of patients died -	2	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	14	—
Number of patients recovered	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—

Malacca Prisons.

Removed into the present building, called Her Majesty's Gaol, on the 6th of January.

It is a two-storied building. Below there are 16 separate cells and four wards for criminal prisoners, and above it is divided into 16 separate cells for criminal, and four wards for unconvicted prisoners. The walls are of brick and mortar, with tiled roofs,

and brick and mortar partitions. The cells are lofty and well ventilated, and there are open windows to all the wards.

There are also four punishment cells in the criminal prison.

A separate building is provided for the sick, which is airy and well ventilated.

The two prisons are, as to supervision, under one and the same control, and are situated within one boundary wall, party walls separating the one from the other.

Classification is carried out as far as the construction of the prison admits of, and in strict accordance with the orders on the subject.

The establishment consists of one superintendent, one European warder, and 11 Native sub-warders.

—	Criminal Prison.	Civil Prison.
Average number of prisoners for the year -	47·53	25·25
Number of prisoners on the 1st January 1876	64	75
Number of prisoners on the 1st January 1877	42	23

The diet of the prisoners has been of good quality; 56 out of 129, or 43 per cent., gained weight in six months of 1875 on penal diet; and 34 out of 69, or 49 per cent., gained weight in six months of 1876 on rigorous diet.

The average daily number of prisoners employed at stone-breaking for the year is 27·04, and the amount of stone broken is 995 cubic yards.

Stone is contracted for by the municipality; the prisoners break it, and it is removed from the prison by the municipality, for the repair of roads, free of charge.

There are 19 cells in the work yard, and prisoners are worked in separation, as far as practicable, at stone-breaking, and have also two hours' shot drill per day.

—	Criminal Prison.	Civil Prison.
Average daily number of sick - -	4·43	0·62
Deaths - - - - -	1	None.
Escapes - - - - -	None.	None.

Cost for the year, $5,701 63.

Punishments.

Confinement in a punishment cell on rice and water	18
Flogging - - - - -	8

The civil prison is used as a temporary asylum for lunatics. They are maintained and overlooked by the prison authorities until an opportunity offers for their transfer to the lunatic asylum at Singapore.

The conduct of the prisoners throughout the year has been on the whole satisfactory, and the warders (with two exceptions, a

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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sub-warder named Hendrof and one named Assan, who were dismissed for misconduct) have all performed their duty.

STATISTICAL RETURN for the PRISONS of MALACCA for 1876.

Name and Nature of the Prison (whether Common or Penitentiary, &c.).	Total Number of Prisoners committed in 1876.	Number committed for Debt, want of Security, and Punishment.			Number of those committed who have been previously convicted.			Number of Persons committed to* Penal Imprisonment including Penal Servitude, if that term is used in the Colony to describe any Punishment.				The Daily Average Number in Prisons.	The Number of Admissions to Hospital during the year 1876.	The Daily Average on Sick List.	The Number of Deaths during 1876.
		For Debt.	For Safe Custody till Trial for Want of Security.	For the purpose of Penal Imprisonment.	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or more.	For Five Years or more.	For One Year or more, but less than Five Years.	For more than Three Months but less than One Year.	For Three Months or less				
Malacca Colonial gaol.	253	10	229	14	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	25·25	8	0·62	1
Convict gaol House of Correction.	229	—	—	229	8	2	6	7	12	59	151	47·53	75	4·43	1

* By penal imprisonment is meant imprisonment inflicted as a substantive punishment in pursuance of a sentence of a court of justice from imprisonment for safe custody, &c.

Ecclesiastical Report for the Year 1876.—*Malacca.*

There are no great changes to record in this department.

The congregation at the church services present an apparent decrease, which is accounted for by the removal, during the year, of considerable numbers of troops. The services of the church were regularly performed morning and evening on all Sundays of the year but two, when, the chaplain leaving Malacca in the middle of the Sunday, the evening service was unavoidably dropped. One funeral was, during the chaplain's absence, performed by the churchwarden.

The daily services of the church were, for a short time, held in a large room belonging to the old gaol during repairs and whitewashing of the church.

The Lord Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak visited Malacca in July, confirmed eight candidates, and brought to an amicable conclusion the difficulty which had arisen from the unsuitableness of the old Dutch vessels used in administering holy baptism and holy communion. A new harmonium was provided by subscriptions raised among the community for use in the services of the church.

The Christ Church mission to the Chinese was maintained chiefly by the subscriptions of the community.

Postal.

The Post Office is a very small department, managed by one clerk. The mail arrives by local steamers from Singapore each Saturday, returning again the following day, Sunday. A small bounty is paid to the captains of these local steamers, not amounting to more than $10 each month. This is easily accounted for.

The European and Eurasian population is very small, under 100; the Malays, numbering about 50,000, write very few letters; the Chinese, numbering about 30,000, send all their letters through Singapore by friends there; the European troops make very little difference, as the British soldier writes very few letters.

Shipping.

The annexed shows the comparative statement of shipping between the years 1875 and 1876, from which it will be seen that the number of vessels that entered the port exhibits a decrease of 112, but an increase of 55,165 in tonnage.

The number that cleared outwards was decreased by 310, but increased by 43,782 in tonnage.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING between the years 1875 and 1876.

1875.				1876.			
Inwards.	Tonnage.	Outwards.	Tonnage.	Inwards.	Tonnage.	Outwards.	Tonnage.
651	101,476	847	111,995	539	156,642	537	155,777

—	Inwards.								Outwards.							
	1875.		1876.		Increase.		Decrease.		1875.		1876.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Vessels	651	101,476	539	156,642	—	55,166	112	—	847	111,995	537	155,777	—	43,782	310	—

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports during the year 1876 was $1,461,430, and the exports amounted to $1,016,836.

General Remarks.

The year 1876, considering all the late disturbances in the neighbouring States, has been very quiet as regards the Malay population, but the Chinese, as usual, were troublesome, and on two occasions attempted riots, but the police were sufficient to put them down, and then the Peace Preservation Ordinance was put in force, since which time all has gone on orderly and peacefully.

The revenue for the year has not improved. Malacca being purely agricultural can only look to her land revenue and opium farm for increase. The land revenue may be reasonably expected to show a great improvement, since the amended Land Ordinance passed in November 1876; and also provision has been made for a more efficient survey staff, the want of which has been much felt in collecting our tenths in past years. The opium farm ought also to have realised a larger sum for 1876, and had it been advertised in Malacca, $12,000 a year would most probably have been offered over the amount for which it was let privately to the

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

MALACCA.

opium farmer of Singapore. There may be good reasons for letting the Singapore farmer have the Malacca farm at a cheaper rate than the market value; still it all shows against the revenue of Malacca.

There is no doubt that by reducing the present establishments the Settlement would nearly pay its expenses. An officer of the rank and title of Lieutenant-Governor is not necessary at Malacca. A police magistrate appointed as Government Agent, with, until the survey is completed, two other officers as heads of departments, and after the survey is completed one other officer as assistant, would, with efficient clerks, be all that is required. By this arrangement the work would be more centralized and the expenditure much less.

Attached to this is a tabulated statement of the whole territory of Malacca, showing the surveyed, unsurveyed, cultivated, and uncultivated lands, by which it will be seen how much a complete survey is required.

TERRITORY OF MALACCA.

Titles.	Description.	Within 4th Mile Radius.	Beyond 4th Mile Radius.	Total of both.	Total of Titles.	Total Extent of Land.
		Square Acres.	Square Acres.	Square Acres.	Square Acres.	Square Acres.
Prescriptive -	Squatters and tenants on prescriptive right paying tenths.	3,491	31,366	34,730		
	Brick fields paying tenths -	75	—	75	34,805	
Grants - -	Freeholds under Dutch grants	6,601	8,770	15,226		
	British grants in fee simple -	1,143	2,225	3,368		
	Dutch grants of Chinese burial grounds.	107	—	107		
	Grants for mosques and Malay burial grounds.	38	—	38	18,739	
Leases - -	Leases for 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, and 20 years with commutation deeds and assessment notices.	4,238	42,856	47,094		
	Leases for 99 years - -	61	227	288		
	Leases for 999 years - -	—	1,217	1,217		
	Expired peppercorn leases and lands for public buildings (approximate).	52	—	52	48,651	
Forest reserve -	Forest reserve - - -	—	10,820	10,820	10,820	
Unleased tapioca land.	Tapioca land, leases not issued	—	11,640	11,640	11,640	
	Total of surveyed lands -	—	—	—	124,655	124,655
	Included prescriptive grant and lease titles:					
	Gardens - - -	4,709	47,755	52,464		
	Paddy fields - - -	4,143	15,765	19,908		
	Tapioca (leased) plantations.	—	29,823	29,823		
	Land surrendered to East India Company in consideration of annuities.	—	—	253,920		
Encroachments -	Encroachments planted with tapioca (approximate).	—	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Forest - -	Forest and secondary jungle land.	—	—	263,465	263,465	
Abandoned - -	Abandoned tapioca lands, also waste lands.	278	11,862	12,140	12,140	
Paddy and garden	Paddy and garden lands -	—	14,500	14,500	14,500	
	Total unsurveyed lands -	—	—	—	297,105	297,105
	Total area of Malacca territory in square acres.	—	—	—	—	421,760

VICTORIA.

No. 22.

Governor SIR G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Melbourne,
September 28, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a digest of the Statistics of Victoria for 1876, which has been carefully compiled by the Government Statist for insertion in the annual parliamentary Blue Book, showing the condition and progress of the British Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

DIGEST OF THE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY OF VICTORIA FOR THE YEAR 1876.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of VICTORIA from 1867 to 1876 inclusive.

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	General Revenue.*	General Expenditure.*	Crown Land Sales.†		Land in Cultivation.	Live Stock.				Postage.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.								Area sold.	Amount realised.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	No. of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.	No. of Newspapers.
									£	£	Acres.	£	Acres.							
1867	651,571	362,273	289,298	25,608	11,733	4,490	27,242	25,142	3,216,317	3,241,818	129,333	214,077	631,207	131,148	650,592	9,532,811	141,522	583	9,567,990	4,907,819
1868	674,614	373,232	301,382	27,243	10,067	4,692	32,805	25,552	3,230,754	3,189,321	275,649	359,703	712,865	143,934	693,682	9,756,819	136,206	633	9,749,716	4,974,102
1869	699,790	385,561	314,229	26,040	10,630	4,735	33,570	22,418	3,383,984	3,226,165	725,110	794,543	827,534	161,830	692,518	9,923,663	111,464	651	10,582,711	5,251,327
1870	726,599	398,755	327,844	27,151	10,420	4,732	32,554	21,087	3,261,883	3,428,382	337,507	463,821	909,015	167,220	721,096	10,761,887	130,946	677	11,133,283	5,287,482
1871	752,445	412,009	340,436	27,382	9,918	4,693	28,333	19,951	1,691,266*	1,754,251*	378,516	528,119	937,220	181,643	799,509	10,002,381	177,447	706	11,716,166	5,172,970
1872	770,727	419,903	350,824	27,361	10,831	4,791	27,047	25,295	3,734,422	3,659,534	752,161	859,142	963,091	185,796	812,289	10,575,219	193,722	733	12,941,095	5,490,772
1873	790,492	430,042	360,450	28,100	11,501	4,974	29,460	26,294	3,644,135	3,504,953	529,309	621,472	964,996	180,342	883,763	11,323,080	160,336	764	14,475,085	6,080,007
1874	808,437	439,159	369,278	26,800	12,222	4,925	30,732	27,365	4,106,790	4,177,338	531,538	579,051	1,011,776	180,254	958,658	11,221,036	137,941	802	15,738,888	6,866,918
1875	823,272	447,148	376,124	26,720	15,287	4,985	32,744	29,342	4,236,423	4,318,121	418,561	630,054	1,126,831	196,184	1,054,598	11,749,532	140,765	855	17,134,101	7,552,912
1876	840,300	456,463	383,837	26,769	13,561	4,949	35,797	31,977	4,325,156	4,572,844	476,038	584,913	1,231,105	194,768	1,128,265	11,278,893	175,578	886	18,963,503	9,010,147

* The figures of Revenue and Expenditure are for the year ended 31st December of each year until 1871, when the financial year was changed so as to terminate on the 30th June. The figures for 1871 are therefore for the six months ended 30th June, and the figures for subsequent years are for the twelve months ended 30th June.

† In addition to the quantity of land sold and amount realized within the year, the figures under the head "Land Sales" represent, during each of the years after 1868, the total extent of, and amount paid on, lands purchased under deferred payments of which the payments were completed within the year, although such payments had extended over a series of years. The extent selected, of which the purchase had not been completed, is not included in the area sold.

Year.	Shipping.				Vessels built.		Vessels registered.		Mortgages and Liens.		Imports.	Imports of		Exports.	Exports of							
	Inwards.		Outwards.									Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).			Wool.†		Tallow.		Hides and Skins.	Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Amount secured.	Total Value.	Quantity.*	Value.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.*	Value.
										£	£	Bushels.	£	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	£	Bush.	£
1867	1,847	593,235	1,955	617,026	6	315	43	6,787	3,380	3,754,672	11,674,080	439,855	109,358	12,724,427	51,314,116	3,824,956	2,103,360	34,968	31,458	424,665	110,330
1868	2,067	653,362	2,172	685,207	6	296	41	7,105	3,509	3,485,315	13,320,662	416,017	147,282	15,593,990	68,010,591	4,567,182	12,104,960	160,909	33,619	253,979	90,421
1869	2,320	721,274	2,334	730,961	7	303	45	9,006	4,036	4,701,485	13,908,990	810,987	233,887	13,464,354	54,431,367	3,363,075	14,259,616	237,084	60,461	91,398	28,368
1870	2,093	663,764	2,187	681,098	5	667	29	5,503	4,410	4,203,743	12,455,758	104,224	25,249	12,470,014	52,123,451	3,205,106	22,158,080	358,863	33,649	199,878	52,941
1871	2,137	663,002	2,257	692,023	8	837	46	11,015	4,849	4,278,197	12,341,995	1,295,015	385,325	14,557,820	76,334,480	4,702,164	30,422,672	469,069	39,858	115,432	37,864
1872	2,104	666,336	2,234	694,426	10	478	42	8,146	5,151	4,076,229	13,691,322	585,688	179,352	13,871,195	58,648,977	4,651,665	22,656,088	353,358	49,169	195,725	62,058
1873	2,187	756,103	2,226	762,912	3	187	50	12,640	5,155	5,248,365	16,533,856	65,167	16,204	15,302,454	74,893,882	5,738,638	15,373,120	233,091	53,659	203,255	68,539
1874	2,100	777,110	2,122	792,509	5	1,083	44	12,522	5,929	6,019,904	16,953,985	136,004	37,078	15,441,109	88,662,284	6,373,676	13,591,760	199,564	56,993	176,718	63,399
1875	2,171	840,386	2,223	833,499	4	1,762	53	8,519	6,035	4,542,569	16,685,874	284,605	71,137	14,766,974	85,064,952	6,096,958	13,910,736	203,243	50,454	84,236	36,076
1876	2,086	810,062	2,150	847,026	23	1,013	42	8,484	6,417	5,081,387	15,705,354	355,704	96,007	14,196,487	106,265,877	6,413,754	11,424,000	174,507	59,052	96,773	40,542

* The quantities of flour, bread, and biscuit imported and exported are reduced to their equivalent in bushels, on the assumption that one bushel of wheat produces 45 lbs. of either of those articles.

† Since the year 1864 a considerable quantity of wool has each year been imported into Victoria across the Murray, from the Riverina district of New South Wales, for transport by railway to Melbourne and shipment thence. Prior to 1872 no precise record of the quantity so introduced was kept at the Customs. It has, however, been ascertained that at least 13,000,000 lbs. of wool, valued at 972,000*l.*, crossed the Murray into Victoria in the year 1870, and the following amounts in the years named :—19,552,598 lbs., valued at 1,096,772*l.*, in 1872; 31,542,913 lbs., valued at 1,745,550*l.*, in 1873; 55,332,089 lbs., valued at 1,975,879*l.*, in 1874; 40,535,081 lbs., valued at 2,260,799*l.*, in 1875; and 44,430,185 lbs., valued at 2,039,009*l.*, in 1876.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1867 to 1876 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Export of Gold.*		Public Debt.	Government Expenditure† on					Railways.‡			Electric Telegraphs.			Banks of Issue.			
	Quantity.	Value.		Railways.	Roads and Bridges.	Melbourne Water Supply (Yan Yean).	Other Waterworks.	Other Public Works.	Miles Opened.	Train Miles Travelled.	Total Receipts.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.	Number of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£					£	£	£
1867	1,433,687	5,738,993	9,480,800	247,970	47,374	5,941	313,103	241,449	271	1,488,737	678,179	83	3,171	235,648	10	8,136,325	15,777,891	10,89 ,291
1868	1,960,713	7,843,197	9,417,800	103,076	110,548	59,041	144,216	182,476	271	1,538,964	712,766	86	3,171	254,288	10	8,320,624	16,252,007	11,679,164
1869	1,700,973	6,804,179	10,385,900	104,612	90,735	29,795	152,775	267,603	271	1,563,274	758,470	91	3,368	276,742	10	8,347,500	17,665,861	11,956,575
1870	1,529,821	6,119,782	11,924,800	192,420	36,832	20,716	93,553	191,573	274	1,495,719	699,273	95	3,371	454,598§	10	8,305,224	16,866,405	12,357,571
1871	1,647,389	6,590,962	11,994,800	242,508	35,328	11,501	97,176	97,088	276	917,960	401,389	96	3,472	537,398	10	8,276,250	17,222,093	12,862,650
1872	1,298,839	5,197,340	11,984,800	566,831	42,192	9,140	17,945	264,761	329	1,571,682	771,638	117	3,634	639,960	10	8,276,250	18,125,902	13,935,047
1873	1,291,014	5,168,614	12,445,722	853,179	38,126	24,213	227,427	186,464	377	1,766,717	857,745	135	3,928	718,167	10	8,366,250	19,943,959	14,092,995
1874	1,012,153	4,053,288	12,485,433	816,616	102,922	70,893	212,378	390,955	457½	2,109,227	1,016,925	148	4,293	701,080	11	8,503,033	20,456,852	14,105,460
1875	794,164	3,177,905	13,992,583	984,624	99,451	81,404	95,672	350,159	603	2,502,838	1,091,937	164	4,510	732,869	12	8,572,120	22,279,482	15,483,172
1876	525,630	2,103,591	13,996,823	956,411	66,690	80,141	142,354	348,596	719	2,752,415	1,216,537	181	4,745	801,946	12	8,630,745	23,918,123	16,527,277

* The returns of gold exports for the four years 1852-55 contain, in addition to the amounts which passed through the Customs of this Colony, the following quantities of Victorian gold which passed through the Customs of the adjacent Colonies without being recorded in Victoria:—1852, 749,957 oz., value 2,624,851*l.*; 1853, 652,297 oz., value 2,446,114*l.*; 1854, 247,366 oz., value 958,543*l.*; 1855, 41,530 oz., value 166,120*l.* Total 1,691,150 oz., value 6,195,628*l.* No estimate has been given of the further quantity of gold taken out of the Colony by private hand and not recorded in any Custom House. The returns show the gross exports. Scarceiy any gold appears in the import returns until after the gold export duty was abolished at the end of 1867. Since then the following are the imports of gold, chiefly from New Zealand:—1868, 326,550 oz., value 1,305,825*l.*; 1869, 363,716 oz., value 1,415,473*l.*; 1870, 376,926 oz., value 1,507,068*l.*; 1871, 329,181 oz., value 1,317,018*l.*; 1872, 246,641 oz., value 986,494*l.*; 1873, 252,576 oz., value 991,410*l.*; 1874, 220,541 oz., value 881,717*l.*; 1875. 216,666 oz., value 869,419*l.*; 1876, 138,555 oz., value 553,821*l.*

† The expenditure for 1871 is for the first six months only Prior to that date the expenditure was for the year ended 31st December. Since that date it has been for the year ended 30th June. The figures do not include amounts expended by municipal governments.

‡ These returns are those of the Government and private railways combined. The former are for the year ended 31st December until 1870; those for 1871 are for the six months ended 30th June, those for 1872 and the three following years are for the twelve months ended 30th June, and those for 1876 are for the year ended 31st December. The returns of private railways are for the year ended 31st December throughout.

§ The increase in the number of telegrams commencing in 1870 was consequent on a reduction in the rates.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1867 to 1876 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Savings Banks.*			Friendly Societies.†		Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.			Flour Mills.	Mining Machines.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Churches and Chapels.	Schools.		Melbourne University.		Number of Persons			
	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.	Number of Branches.	Mean Number of Members.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.					Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Matriculated Students.	Number of Direct Graduates.	Taken into Custody.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	Executed.
			£				£	£		£	£												
1867	77	28,376	709,514	401	26,181	62	20,394,918	335,606	99	21,535,297	389,621	118	5,830	986	1,874	1,385	91,336	34	16	23,721	957	566	5
1868	84	32,506	805,830	441	28,596	62	21,503,942	500,324	101	22,628,604	371,368	136	6,068	1,180	1,870	1,430	97,884	47	13	24,384	901	526	3
1869	110	37,494	978,619	507	32,092	63	21,630,909	423,984	108	24,429,873	534,123	149	6,561	1,381	1,967	1,722	151,844	53	17	24,770	842	486	3
1870	123	41,738	1,047,147	592	34,224	65	22,607,630	386,676	108	25,322,054	528,881	147	6,418	1,432	2,134	1,867	154,353	82	10	23,790	908	573	5
1871	134	45,819	1,117,761	590	35,707	63	23,268,410	406,101	108	26,897,668	522,033	154	6,054	1,586	2,210	2,050	165,276	93	19	22,800	781	511	2
1872	141	52,749	1,405,738	683	42,402	60	23,929,035	391,936	110	29,105,169	541,817	163	5,779	1,607	2,295	1,936	160,743	88	14	23,705	688	430	2
1873	151	58,547	1,498,618	720	44,602	60	25,391,990	410,508	110	31,415,663	529,426	157	5,699	1,646	2,284	1,731	226,254	98	21	24,959	729	450	5
1874	157	64,014	1,617,301	710	42,665	60	27,324,605	449,574	110	32,890,838	535,440	161	5,220	1,943	2,455	1,721	238,592	118	24	23,856	694	436	—
1875	162	65,837	1,469,849	757	45,921	59	28,123,803	462,323	108	37,637,258	638,962	157	5,098	2,084	2,519	1,885	248,014	93	29	25,247	744	427	4
1876	170	69,027	1,507,235	770	46,024	59	29,638,515	446,256	110	43,435,832	595,146	152	4,893	2,150	2,602	2,143	260,407	73	28	25,281	680	384	3

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1865. Hence the increase in the amounts in these columns from that year. The returns for the Post Office Savings Banks are for the years ended 31st December, those for the ordinary Savings Banks are for the years ended 30th June.

These figures do not give particulars of all the Friendly Societies in the Colony, but only of such as furnished returns in each year.

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

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DIGEST OF THE STATISTICS OF VICTORIA, 1876.

Population at end of 1876.

1. At the end of 1876 the estimated population of Victoria was as follows:—

Estimated Population, 31st December 1876.

Males - - - -	456,463
Females - - - -	383,837
Total - -	840,300

Increase of population, 1876.

2. The increase of population during the year amounted to 17,028, viz., 9,315 males and 7,713 females. Of this increase, nearly four-fifths, viz., 13,208, consisting of 6,043 males and 7,165 females, resulted from the excess of births over deaths, and the remainder, viz., 3,820, consisting of 3,272 males and 548 females, was due to excess of immigration over emigration.

Increase of population, 1866 to 1876.

3. The increase of population exceeded that in 1875 by 2,193, but was less than the increase in any other year of the previous decenniad, except 1866 and 1867, as will be seen by the following figures:—

Increase of Population.

1866	15,887	1872	18,282
1867	14,589	1873	19,765
1868	23,043	1874	17,945
1869	25,176	1875	14,835
1870	26,809	1876	17,028
1871	25,846		

Increase by births.

4. The increase by excess of births over deaths was greater than that in 1875 by 1,775, but was less than that in any other year of the previous decenniad except 1866. This is shown by the following figures, which indicate the excess of births over deaths in the 11 years ended with 1876.

Increase by Excess of Births over Deaths.

1866	12,724	1872	16,530
1867	13,875	1873	16,599
1868	17,176	1874	14,578
1869	15,410	1875	11,433
1870	16,731	1876	13,208
1871	17,464		

Increase by immigration.

5. The increase by excess of immigrants over emigrants was exceeded in 1866, 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1871, but was greater than that in any of the other years of the previous decenniad. The following are the figures:—

Increase by Excess of Arrivals over Departures.

1866	4,549	1872	1,752
1867	2,100	1873	3,166
1868	7,253	1874	3,367
1869	11,152	1875	3,402
1870	11,467	1876	3,820
1871	8,382		

6. The proportions of the sexes in the population, viz., 84 females to 100 males, or 119 males to 100 females have not varied in the last four years. Males and females.

7. In order to afford means of making calculations in regard to the bearing of population on matters the operation of which extends over the entire year, such as revenue, taxation, imports, exports, &c., it is necessary to make an estimate of the mean or average population. The following is the result of such an estimate for the year under review :— Mean population, 1876.

Estimated Mean Population, 1876.

Males - - - -	451,134
Females - - - -	379,545
Total - - -	830,679

8. The Aborigines in Victoria, according to the estimate of the Central Board for their protection, numbered as follow in 1876 :— Aborigines, 1876.

Aborigines, 1876.

Males - - - - -	632
Females - - - -	435
Total - - -	1,067

9. It is estimated that at the first colonization of Port Phillip the Aborigines numbered about 5,000. When Victoria became an independent Colony, in 1851, the number was officially stated to be 2,693. According to the estimate of the Central Board made in 1872, the number at that period was 1,638, The diminution in the five years ended with 1876 thus amounted to 35 per cent. Decrease of Aborigines.

10. The arrivals and departures during 1876, and the excess of the former over the latter, were as follow :— Immigration and emigration, 1876.

Immigration and Emigration, 1876.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals - - -	25,477	10,320	35,797
Departures - - -	22,205	9,772	31,977
Immigration in excess -	3,272	548	3,820

11. The only assisted immigration which took place during 1876 was that of 71 "warrant passengers" from the United Kingdom, viz., 34 males and 37 females. Assisted immigration.

12. The number of marriages celebrated in 1876 was 4,949, as against 4,985 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1875 was thus 36. Marriages, 1876.

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Marriage rate for 11 years.

13. The marriage rate has been decreasing pretty steadily for years past. This is chiefly no doubt a result of the increasing proportion of persons at unmarriageable ages in the population. The following table gives the number of marriages and the number of persons married per 1,000 of the population during the 11 years ended with 1876 :—

Annual Marriage Rate, 1866 *to* 1876.

Year.	Per 1,000 of the Mean Population.		Year.	Per 1,000 of the Mean Population.	
	Number of Marriages.	Number of Persons Married.		Number of Marriages.	Number of Persons Married.
1866	6·71	13·42	1873	6·37	12·74
1867	6·91	13·82	1874	6·17	12·34
1868	6·99	13·98	1875	6·12	12·24
1869	6·79	13·58	1876	5·96	11·92
1870	6·67	13·34			
1871	6·35	12·70	Mean of 11 years	6·46	12·92
1872	6·30	12·60			

Ages of persons married.

14. In the case of all but 30 of the 4,949 marriages which took place in 1876 the age of both bridegroom and bride was specified. In 23 out of the 30 defective entries the age of neither party was given ; in two cases the age of the husband was stated, uot that of the wife, and in five instances the age of the wife was given, not that of the husband. The following table shows the ages of the husbands and of the wives in combination :—

Ages of Persons Married, 1876.

Ages of Husbands.	Ages of Wives.																				Total Husbands.
	13 to 14.	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.	18 to 19.	19 to 20.	20 to 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75	Unspecified.	
17 to 18 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
18 to 19 „	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
19 to 20 „	—	—	—	1	1	13	5	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
20 to 21 „	—	—	1	1	8	18	25	13	30	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
21 to 25 „	—	—	5	14	58	121	163	201	595	125	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,299
25 to 30 „	—	1	3	20	57	107	164	142	576	296	47	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,428
30 to 35 „	1	1	2	7	19	27	66	70	256	233	86	38	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	813
35 to 40 „	—	—	—	3	11	13	22	30	124	153	87	63	14	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	529
40 to 45 „	—	—	—	2	3	5	4	8	49	63	57	73	47	12	4	5	—	—	—	—	332
45 to 50 „	—	—	—	1	1	5	5	4	17	30	39	31	37	19	7	—	—	—	—	—	196
50 to 55 „	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	6	10	12	12	15	19	7	3	—	1	—	—	88
55 to 60 „	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	3	5	6	9	17	9	4	1	—	—	—	59
60 to 65 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4	3	6	4	2	—	—	—	23
65 to 70 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	11
70 to 75 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	5
Unspecified	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	28
Total wives	1	2	11	53	160	313	459	476	1,664	919	350	239	135	80	37	17	5	2	1	25	4,949

NOTE.—This table may be read thus :—Three men between 40 and 45 married girls between 17 and 18 ; two women between 50 and 55 married men between 35 and 40, &c.

Marriages of minors.

15. In Victoria, as in England and Wales, boys at the age of 14, girls at the age of 12, may, with consent of their parents or guardians, legally marry; but, as a matter of fact, persons very seldom do in this Colony enter the marriage state at those ages. Occasionally, however, marriages take place, one of the parties to which, generally the female, is only one or two years older than the minimum age at which a legal marriage may be contracted. Such instances occurred in 1876, when a girl aged only 13 and another aged only 14 married men between 30 and 35, and a second girl aged 14 married a man between 25 and 30. The record of other marriages of mere girls appears in the table, viz.: 11 at the age of 15, and 53 at the age of 16. Of the latter, 1 married a man between 55 and 60, and another married a man between 65 and 70. Males do not, as a rule, marry so early as females, although the marriages of 2 youths at 17, and of 8 youths at 18 years of age are recorded in the table. In 1876 the total number of males marrying under 21 years of age was 138, or 1 in every 36, whilst the total number of females so marrying was 1,475, or not far short of 1 in every 3. By a comparison of these proportions with smiliar ones for the previous 10 years, it would appear that the tendency of both males and females to marry under age is increasing in Victoria.

Marriages of minors in Victoria and England.

16. In proportion to the total numbers marrying, more females and fewer males marry under age in Victoria than in England and Wales. This is shown by the figures in the following table:—

Marriages of Minors in Victoria and England and Wales.

—	In every 100 Marriages, Numbers under 21 Years of Age.		
	In Victoria.		In England and Wales.
	Year 1876.	Average of 10 Years, 1866 to 1875.	Average of 10 Years.
Bridegrooms - -	2·79	1·85	6·60
Brides - - -	29·80	27·76	19·91
Mean -	16·295	14·805	13·255

Marriages by different sects.

17. Of the marriages which took place in 1876, 93 per cent. were solemnized according to the rites of some religious sect, and 7 per cent. were performed by lay registrars. The number of lay marriages has a tendency to increase, as will be seen by the following table, which gives a statement of the number and per-

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centage of marriages celebrated by each religious sect, and by lay registrars during 1876 and during the previous 11 years :—

Marriages by different Denominations.

Marriages performed according to the Usages of the	Marriages celebrated in			
	Year 1876.		1865–1875.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Church of England -	1,193	24·11	12,753	24·64
Presbyterians - -	1,037	20·95	10,820	20·90
Wesleyans - -	950	19·20	8,244	15·92
Independents - -	250	5·05	2,713	5·24
Baptists - - -	214	4·33	1,704	3·29
Lutherans - -	52	1·05	564	1·09
Unitarians - -	1	·02	21	·04
Society of Friends -	—	—	4	·01
Calvinistic Methodists -	8	·16	117	·23
Roman Catholic Church -	824	16·65	10,898	21·05
Jews - - -	19	·38	203	·39
Others - - -	44	·89	434	·84
Lay registrars - -	357	7·21	3,292	6·36
Total - -	4,949	100·00	51,767	100·00

Signing with marks.

18. In 1876 the following are the numbers of both sexes who signed with marks, and their proportion to the total numbers who married :—

Signing Marriage Register with Marks, 1876.

—	Numbers Married.	Signing with Marks.	
		Total Number.	Number in every 100 Married.
Bridegrooms - - -	4,949	263	5·31
Brides - - -	4,949	371	7·50
Mean - -	4,949	317	6·405

Increased numbers signing in writing.

19. In proportion to the total numbers married a marked increase has taken place of late years in the number of both males and females signing the marriage register in writing. This improvement is apparent from year to year; each year, as compared with its predecessor, showing a smaller proportion of persons

signing with marks. The following are the proportions in the last four years:—

Numbers Signing with Marks per 100 *Married,* 1873–1876.

Year.	Men.	Women.
1873	6·55	9·97
1874	6·52	9·91
1875	5·48	9·43
1876	5·31	7·50

20. Comparing the year 1876 with the average of the previous 11 years, a still greater improvement is made evident:— Signing with marks, 1865 to 1876.

Numbers Signing with Marks per 100 *Married,* 1865–1876.

—	Men.	Women.
Eleven years, 1865–1875 - - -	7·18	13·42
Year 1876 - - - - -	5·31	7·50

21. The births registered in Victoria during 1876 numbered 26,769, as against 26,720 in 1875. The excess in favour of 1876 was therefore 49. Births, 1876.

22. The birth rate, like the marriage rate, has been decreasing pretty steadily for years past. This will be seen by the following figures:— Annual birth rate, 1866 to 1876.

Annual Birth Rate, 1866–1876.

	Births per 1,000 of the Mean Population.		Births per 1,000 of the Mean Population.
1866 - -	39·44	1873 - -	36·01
1867 - -	39·41	1874 - -	33·56
1868 - -	40·59	1875 - -	32·78
1869 - -	37·36	1876 - -	32·23
1870 - -	38·25		
1871 - -	37·07	Mean of 11 years	36·38
1872 - -	35·95		

23. In all parts of the world where the births are registered it is found that more males are born than females; in Victoria during 1876 the former numbered 13,759, and the latter 13,010. These numbers furnish a proportion of 106 boys to 100 girls. In the 11 years ended with 1876 the average of Victoria was 104 boys to 100 girls, which corresponds exactly with the average of England and Wales over a series of years. Births of males and females.

24. In 197 instances twins were born during 1876, and in two instances triplets. In the 11 years ended with that year, 2,760 cases of twins, and 21 cases of triplets have been recorded, the Twins and triplets.

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total number of births in the same period having been 294,184. There were thus 291,382 confinements in the 11 years, and it follows that one mother in every 106 gave birth to twins, and one mother in every 13,875 brought forth three children at a birth.

Illegitimate births.

25. The children recorded as being born out of wedlock in 1876 numbered 975, or one to every 27 births. In the last 11 years, out of 294,184 infants born, 8,804 have been set down as illegitimate, which numbers furnish a proportion of one illegitimate child to every 33 births. If the fact of a birth being illegitimate is always duly entered, illegitimacy is much less rife here than in England and Wales, since in the latter, during the 10 years ended with 1873, one child out of every 17 born was registered as illegitimate.

Deaths, 1876.

26. The deaths in 1876 numbered 13,561 as against 15,287 in the previous year. The mortality in 1875 was the highest ever recorded in Victoria, the next highest being in 1876. After these two years the greatest number of deaths occurred in 1866 (12,286), the next in 1874 (12,222), the next in 1860 (12,061). In no other years than these did the deaths number as high as 12,000.

Excess of births over deaths.

27. The births in 1876 exceeded the deaths by 13,208, or 97 per cent. In the 11 years ended with 1876 the proportion was 129 per cent.

Deaths of males and females.

28. Males contributed 7,716, and females 5,845 to the total mortality. These numbers furnish a proportion of 76 females to 100 males. In the total population it has been already stated that the proportion was 84 females to 100 males, so that more males and fewer females died than might have been expected from their relative numbers living.

Annual death rate, 1866 to 1876.

29. The death rate of males and females is given in the following table for each of the 11 years ended with 1876 :—

Annual Death Rate, 1866–1876.

Year.	Deaths per 1,000 of the Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1866 - - -	19·68	18·98	19·37
1867 - - -	18·25	17·81	18·06
1868 - - -	15·77	14·03	15·00
1869 - - -	16·19	14·10	15·25
1870 - - -	15·66	13·48	14·68
1871 - - -	14·43	12·20	13·43
1872 - - -	15·18	13·10	14·23
1873 - - -	15·45	13·88	14·74
1874 - - -	16·11	14·34	15·30
1875 - - -	19·35	18·06	18·76
1876 - - -	17·10	15·40	16·33
Mean for 11 years -	16·63	14·98	15·89

Causes of death in order of fatality.

30. The following are the causes of death, arranged in the order of their fatality, during 1876, with the numbers who died from each cause, also the number of deaths from each cause during the 22½ years ended with 1875, and the order of fatality of the different causes during that period:—

Causes of Death in order of Fatality. (22½ *Years*, 1853-1875, *and Year* 1876).

Order of Fatality.		Causes of Death in order of Fatality, 1876.	Number of Deaths.	
22½ Years, 1853–1875.	Year 1876.		22½ Years, 1853–1875.	Year 1876.
13	1	Scarlatina	6,064	2,240
2	2	Phthisis	16,413	1,010
1	3	Accidents	17,379	685
4	4	Diarrhœa	14,501	675
3	5	Atrophy and debility	16,251	649
9	6	Diseases of the organs of circulation, not classed	7,834	600
7	7	Pneumonia	8,631	530
12	8	Bronchitis	6,273	461
8	9	Convulsions	8,320	380
6	10	Typhoid fever, &c.	9,169	375
18	11	Apoplexy	3,674	318
22	12	Cancer	2,904	303
14	13	Diseases of the nervous system, not classed	5,504	290
16	14	Premature birth	3,866	284
21	15	Cephalitis	3,393	277
25	16	Old age	2,670	269
24	17	Diseases of the digestive organs, not classed	2,708	258
5	18	Dysentery	11,593	202
10	19	Diphtheria	6,601	201
15	20	Enteritis	4,173	188
32	21	Congestion of the lungs, pulmonary apoplexy	1,630	182
23	22	Croup	2,885	173
20	23	Hydrocephalus	3,507	168
26	24	Childbirth and metria	2,615	165
31	25	Paralysis	1,718	163
27	26	Gastritis	1,943	136
39	27	Pleurisy	1,102	115
34	28	Want of breast-milk	1,498	108
35	29	Suicide	1,278	100
29	30	Hepatitis	1,827	95
43	30	Rheumatism	943	95
59	31	Nephria	506	89
47	32	Erysipelas	783	78
38	33	Aneurism	1,149	75
30	34	Dropsy	1,790	73
36	35	Peritonitis	1,232	70
11	36	Teething	6,396	67
33	36	Alcoholism	1,499	67
42	36	Malformations	955	67
48	36	Diseases of the urinary organs, not classed	767	67
37	37	Diseases of the respiratory system, not classed	1,212	63
45	38	Scrofula	825	61
46	38	Epilepsy	823	61
55	38	Ileus	550	61
28	39	Tabes mesenterica	1,891	60
40	40	Diseases of the stomach, not classed	1,018	59

Order of Fatality.		Causes of Death in order of Fatality, 1876.	Number of Deaths.	
22½ Years, 1853–1875.	Year 1876.		22½ Years, 1853–1875.	Year 1876.
51	41	Jaundice, gall-stone	648	55
57	42	Pericarditis	537	50
58	43	Asthma	515	48
41	44	Cholera	1,016	45
49	44	Influenza, coryza, catarrh	746	45
53	44	Tubercular diseases, not classed	589	45
65	45	Hydatids	325	37
71	46	Nephritis	249	36
44	47	Thrush	828	31
54	48	Venereal diseases	558	29
50	49	Laryngitis	665	25
60	50	Diseases of the locomotive system, not classed	398	23
67	50	Hernia	310	23
66	50	Ulceration of intestines	311	23
69	50	Tumour	293	23
70	51	Skin diseases	264	21
68	52	Diseases of the organs of generation, not classed	300	20
63	53	Privation	344	17
73	53	Cystitis	185	17
62	54	Ascites	359	16
65	54	Miasmatic diseases, not classed	325	16
56	55	Quinsy	538	15
61	55	Murder and manslaughter	395	15
19	56	Whooping cough	3,556	13
52	56	Remittent fever	636	13
75	56	Diabetes	163	13
79	57	Gout	108	12
77	58	Ulcer	133	11
72	59	Puerpura and scurvy	236	8
85	59	Paramenia	62	8
64	60	Mortification	329	7
83	61	Stone, gravel	69	6
17	62	Measles	3,828	5
80	62	Ovarian dropsy	83	5
82	62	Spleen disease	71	5
87	62	Stricture of the intestines	53	5
89	62	Ischuria	46	5
71	63	Insanity	249	4
81	63	Ague	73	4
88	63	Carbuncle, boil	47	4
90	63	Phlegmon, whitlow	42	4
76	64	Intussusception	138	3
84	64	Execution	67	3
74	65	Diathetic diseases, not classed	165	2
91	65	Chicken-pox, &c.	38	2
94	65	Dietic diseases, not classed	23	2
94	65	Ostitis, periostitis	23	2
86	66	Worms	54	1
93	66	Chorea	33	1
78	—	Arthritis	115	—
86	—	Noma	54	—
92	—	Fistula	34	—
95	—	Small-pox	21	—
96	—	Parasitic diseases, not classed	16	—
97	—	Pancreas disease	12	—
98	—	Developmental diseases of children, not classed	11	—
99	—	Polypus	7	—

Order of Fatality.		Causes of Death in order of Fatality, 1876.	Number of Deaths.	
22½ Years, 1853–1875.	Year 1876.		22½ Years, 1853–1875.	Year 1876.
100	—	Glanders - - - - -	2	—
101	—	Developmental diseases of adults, not classed - - - - -	1	—
		Deaths from specified causes -	221,559	13,536
		Deaths from unspecified causes -	1,532	25
		Deaths from all causes - -	223,091	13,561

Phthisis most fatal of all diseases.

31. During the 23½ years which have elapsed since deaths were first registered in Victoria, more deaths have been caused by accidents than by any regular disease. For a number of the years, however, prior to 1875, more deaths were set down to phthisis than to accidents or to any other cause. But in 1875 the Colony was visited by an epidemic of measles, which caused 1,541 deaths, as against 1,027 from phthisis, and in 1876 by an epidemic of scarlatina, which caused 2,240 deaths, as against 1,010 from phthisis. These are, however, exceptional instances, as such epidemics happily occur but seldom. As, moreover, the liability to death from accidents is not now nearly so great as it was formerly, especially in the early days of the goldfields, it may fairly be stated that, taking one year with another, of all the circumstances which cause death not one is so fatal in Victoria as phthisis.

Scarlatina epidemic, 1875 and 1876.

32. The mortality in 1876 was greatly increased by the prevalence of a scarlatina epidemic. This commenced in 1875, and was continued during 1876. The following are the total deaths set down to its effects in the two years:—

Deaths from Scarlatina.

1875 - - - -	985
1876 - - - -	2,240
Total - -	3,225

Deaths caused by epidemic.

33. Estimating the average population of the biennial period at 830,000, it would follow that 1 person in every 257 persons living in the Colony succumbed to this complaint.

Deaths in public institutions.

34. The deaths in public institutions of all descriptions were as follow in 1876:—

Deaths in Public Institutions, 1876.

	Number of Deaths.
General hospitals - - - -	1,537
Hospitals for diseases of women and children -	7
Lying-in hospital - - - -	40*

* This includes the deaths of 34 children born in the institution.

	Number of Deaths.
Hospital for Sick Children - - -	17
Benevolent asylums - - - -	152
Melbourne Immigrants' Home - - -	67
Orphan asylums - - - -	22
Hospitals for the insane - - -	185
Female refuges - - - -	1
Industrial and reformatory schools - -	20
Gaols - - - - - -	53
Penal establishments - - - -	9
Total - -	2,110

Note.—In 1876 no death occurred in the Blind Asylum, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, or the Eye and Ear Hospital.

Proportion of deaths in public institutions.

35. It will be observed that the number of deaths in public institutions in 1876 was 2,110. This number furnishes a proportion of 1 to every 6½ deaths which took place in Victoria during the year. It thus follows that 10 out of every 65 persons who died in 1876 ended their days in a penal or charitable institution.

Revenue and expenditure, 1875–6.

36. The general revenue of the Colony during the year ended 30th June 1876 was not so great as the expenditure by nearly 250,000*l.* A surplus balance, however, amounting to nearly 90,000*l.* remained from previous years, whereby the deficiency was reduced to about 160,000*l.* The following are the exact figures :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Net revenue - - -	4,325,156	9	1
Net expenditure - - -	4,572,843	10	9
Expenditure in excess of revenue -	247,687	1	8
Balance from 1874–5 brought forward	88,794	4	0
Net deficiency - - -	158,892	17	8

Unrealized assets.

37. As against this deficiency, however, there are certain assets which, had they been realised prior to the 30th June, 1876, would have resulted in a credit balance of about 54,000*l.*, thus :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Disbursed on account of Loan Act, No. 531 -	194,917	17	3
„ „ other Governments for steam postal communication - -	17,868	14	5
Total - - -	212,786	11	8
Deduct net deficiency, as above -	158,892	17	8
Credit balance to carry forward - -	53,893	14	0

Large revenue and expenditure, 1875–6.

38. The revenue and expenditure of the year under review were the largest amounts ever received and expended in Victoria during one year. In two other years only did the revenue come

up to four millions sterling, viz., in 1874–5 (4,236,423*l.*), and in 1873–4 (4,106,790*l.*), and in three other years only did the expenditure reach that amount, viz., in 1874–5 (4,318,121*l.*), 1873–4 (4,177,338*l.*), and in 1854 (4,185,708*l.*).

39. The heads of revenue for the last three financial years, and the amounts received under each head, were as follow :— Heads of revenue.

Heads of Revenue, 1873–4, 1874–5, *and* 1875–6.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.		
	1873–4.	1874–5.	1875–6.
	£	£	£
Customs	1,761,099	1,628,235	1,657,788
Excise	32,869	32,475	33,437
Ports and harbours	20,654	19,935	22,104
Licenses (business)	10,135	10,714	10,712
Duties on estates of deceased persons	72,086	32,526	48,963
„ on bank notes	—	—	7,191
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money)	558,316	767,030	781,749
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money)	196,114	174,194	185,096
Penalties under Land Acts	13,200	5,528	53,167
Railways	851,425	921,714	983,033
Water supply	103,493	88,556	92,947
Public works (exclusive of railways and water supply)	1,641	6,834	6,042
Post and telegraphs	186,637	198,316	209,213
Fines, fees, and forfeitures (exclusive of Land Act penalties)	97,730	111,304	112,664
Rents (ordinary)	1,393	749	674
Reimbursements, recoups, &c.	95,269	107,868	56,093
Interest and exchange	84,077	75,025	48,086
Miscellaneous receipts	20,652	55,410	16,197
Total	4,106,790	4,236,423	4,325,156

40. The following are the heads of expenditure during the last three financial years, and the amounts expended under each head :— Heads of expenditure.

Heads of Expenditure, 1873–4, 1874–5, *and* 1875–6.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts expended.		
	1873–4.	1874–5.	1875–6.
	£	£	£
Legislature	56,614	56,552	57,521
Civil establishment	95,994	105,681	100,130
Judicial and legal	177,369	172,975	170,594
Public instruction, science, &c.	537,759	596,102	572,675
Charitable institutions, medical, &c.	272,290	273,537	270,318
Mining	33,009	30,653	38,153
Police	194,329	198,312	199,738
Gaols and penal establishments	61,787	60,469	61,051
Mint	21,667	20,000	20,000
Crown lands and survey	118,329	140,246	139,070
Railways	405,319	437,931	489,751

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Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts expended.		
	1873–4.	1874–5.	1875–6.
	£	£	£
Water supply - - - - -	15,708	24,240	19,612
Public works (exclusive of school buildings, railways, roads, bridges, and water supply)	601,076	669,740	741,456
Customs - - - - -	93,840	57,364	56,311
Harbours and lights - - - -	24,638	35,035	34,703
Defences - - - - -	56,629	53,507	58,233
Post and telegraphs - - - -	309,112	357,890	301,909
Retiring allowances, pensions, &c. - -	31,508	34,694	34,101
Redemption of loans - - -	35,100	35,000	—
Interest - - - - -	726,142	742,008	793,600
Civil list - - - - -	76,570	68,984	71,227
Aborigines - - - - -	7,055	6,209	6,100
Placed to railway loan liquidation and construction account - - - -	200,000	100,000	300,000
Miscellaneous services - - -	25,494	40,992	36,590
Total - -	4,177,338	4,318,121	4,572,843

Taxation.

41. The items of revenue which may be set down as taxation amounted in 1875-6 to 41 per cent. of the total revenue. These consist of the receipts from customs duties, wharfage rates, port and harbour dues, duties on spirits distilled in Victoria, non-territorial licenses, duties on estates of deceased persons, toll receipts, and duties on bank notes. The last-mentioned item, which produced in 1875–6 7,191*l.*, appeared for the first time in the returns of that year.

Taxation, 1853 to 1875–6.

42. A statement of the total taxation and of the amount of taxation per head during each year since 1852 will be found in the following table:—

Taxation, 1853 *to* 1875–6.

Year.	Taxation.		Year.	Taxation.	
	Gross Amount.	Average per Head.		Gross Amount.	Average per Head.
	£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.
1853 -	800,577	4 1 11½	1865 -	1,214,479	1 19 4¾
1854 -	1,052,462	3 18 8½	1866 -	1,219,567	1 18 5½
1855 -	1,193,309	3 10 6½	1867 -	1,516,231	2 6 8
1856 -	1,458,647	3 16 7	1868 -	1,352,818	2 0 3¾
1857 -	1,331,362	3 1 10½	1869 -	1,539,495	2 4 2
1858 -	1,414,511	2 18 5¾	1870 -	1,394,333	1 19 3½
1859 -	1,414,760	2 14 8½	1871 (6 months).	724,261	0 19 9½
1860 -	1,330,761	2 9 4¼	1871–2 -	1,612,034	2 3 0
1861 -	1,244,389	2 6 0	1872–3 -	1,784,056	2 6 4
1862 -	1,183,194	2 3 2	1873–4 -	1,896,842	2 8 0¾
1863 -	1,158,219	2 1 3¼	1874–5 -	1,724,822	2 2 9
1864 -	1,167,036	1 19 7½	1875–6 -	1,780,392	2 3 3¾

Note.—An export duty on gold existed from May 1855 to the end of 1867. The receipts from that source have not, for the purposes of this table, been considered as taxation.

General and local revenue and expenditure.

43. The following table gives a statement of the total revenue and total expenditure of the general and municipal governments during the years 1874–5 and 1875–6, whereby it will be seen that the sums raised and the sums expended for general and local purposes each amounted to nearly 5,000,000*l.* in the former, and to over 5,000,000*l.* in the latter financial year:—

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure, 1874–5 *and* 1875–6.

	Total, Amounts received and expended.	
	1874–5.	1875–6.
Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General government - -	4,236,423 5 10	4,325,156 9 1
Municipal government - -	683,001 14 3	684,690 14 11
Total - -	4,919,425 0 1	5,009,847 4 0
Expenditure.		
General government - -	4,318,120 11 7	4,572,843 10 9
Municipal government - -	572,242 14 7	649,654 10 10
Total - -	4,890,363 6 2	5,222,498 1 7

General and local revenue and expenditure per head.

44. The next table gives the general and local revenue and expenditure per head in the same two years. It will be observed that the general revenue amounts to about five guineas per head, the local revenue to between 16*s.* and 17*s.* per head, and the general and local revenue combined to over 6*l.* per head.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure per head, 1874–5 *and* 1875–6.

	Amounts received and expended per Head.	
	1874–5.	1875–6.
Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General government - -	5 5 $0\frac{1}{4}$	5 5 $2\frac{1}{4}$
Municipal government - -	0 16 $11\frac{1}{4}$	0 16 $7\frac{3}{4}$
Total - -	6 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$	6 1 10
Expenditure.		
General government - -	5 7 $0\frac{1}{2}$	5 11 $2\frac{3}{4}$
Municipal government - -	0 14 $2\frac{1}{4}$	0 15 $9\frac{3}{4}$
Total - -	6 1 $2\frac{3}{4}$	6 7 $0\frac{1}{2}$

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General and local taxation.

45. The amount of taxation under the general and local governments is given in the following table for the same two years, the items being specified in each case. The principle upon which the items of taxation are separated from the general revenue has been already explained. The local taxation is separated from the municipal revenue by rejecting—besides all grants received from the general government—deposits on contracts, rents of buildings and land, proceeds of the letting of halls, &c., the balance being considered as taxation:—

General and Local Taxation, 1874–5 *and* 1875–6.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount received.	
	1874–5.	1875–6.
General Government Taxation.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs duties - - -	1,527,439 10 7	1,550,460 14 5
Wharfage rates - - -	100,795 6 10	107,327 5 11
Ports and harbours - - -	19,935 7 6	22,104 1 0
Spirits distilled in Victoria - -	32,474 15 8	33,437 5 9
Licenses (not territorial) - -	10,714 4 9	10,711 18 9
Duties on estates of deceased persons -	32,526 1 1	48,963 3 2
Duties on bank notes - - -	—	7,190 19 0
Toll receipts - - - -	936 12 1	196 9 3
Total - - -	1,724,821 18 6	1,780,391 17 3
Municipal Government Taxation.		
Rates - - - - -	364,337 19 7	359,265 18 2
Toll receipts - - - -	69,106 9 1	61,055 9 6
Licenses - - - -	107,071 8 9	108,752 17 1
Registration of dogs and goats - -	10,293 5 4	10,782 13 6
Market dues - - - -	27,982 1 0	31,248 5 6
Total - - -	578,791 3 9	571,105 3 9
Total general and local taxation -	2,303,613 2 3	2,351,497 1 0

General and local taxation per head.

46. The general and local taxation taken together represented in 1874–5 a proportion of 2*l.* 17*s.* 1¼*d.* to each individual in the community, and in 1875–6 a proportion of 2*l.* 17*s.* 2¼*d.* to each individual.

Public debt.

47. On the 30th June 1876, the public debt of Victoria amounted to 13,996,822*l.* 12*s.* This consisted of—

	£	s.	d.
Debentures - -	12,993,220	0	0
Stock - - -	1,003,602	12	0
Total - -	13,996,822	12	0

48. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the debt is composed :— Rates of interest.

	£	s.	d.
6 per cent. - -	9,073,320	0	0
5 per cent. - -	2,419,900	0	0
4 per cent. - -	2,503,602	12	0
Total - -	13,996,822	12	0

49. The estimated population of Victoria on the 30th June 1876 was 829,284. If the amount of public debt at the same period (13,996,823*l.*) be divided by this number, the proportionate indebtedness of each man, woman, and child in the Colony will be shown to have been 16*l.* 17*s.* 6¾*d.* As compared with the amounts on the 30th June 1875, the total debt shows an increase of 4,240*l.*, but the average indebtness per head shows a decrease of 6*s.* 5*d.* Indebtedness per head.

50. The interest on the debt represented a charge of 18*s.* 7½*d.* per head of the mean population of 1875–6, as against a charge of 18*s.* 11¾*d.* per head of the mean population of 1874–5. Interest on debt per head.

51. During the last 26 years a sum amounting to 31,600,000*l.* has been expended by the general government on public works, including railways, roads, and bridges, Melbourne and country water supply, and other works and buildings. Of this amount nearly 1,600,000*l.* was spent in 1875–6. The whole is exclusive of the sums expended by local bodies on public works, roads, &c., and by the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company and its predecessors on the construction and maintenance of their lines. The following table gives the amounts expended by the State prior to and during 1875–6 :— Expenditure on public works.

Expenditure on Public Works.

Public Works.	Amount expended.		
	Prior to 1875–6.	During 1875–6.	Total.
	£	£	£
Victorian railways - -	13,240,656	956,411	4,197,067
Roads and bridges - -	6,773,818	66,690	6,840,508
Melbourne water supply (Yan Yean) - - -	1,318,423	80,141	1,398,564
Other waterworks - -	1,427,504	142,354	1,569,858
Other public works - -	7,244,663	348,596	7,593,259
Total - - -	30,005,064	1,594,192	31,599,256

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Defences.

52. Some provision has been made for the defence of Victoria both by land and sea. The land forces embrace a paid artillery corps, and volunteers of various arms. The sea defences consist of ships, together with their crews, also of a naval reserve.

Land forces.

53. The following table shows the strength and establishment of the land forces at the end of 1876 :—

Land Forces—Strength and Establishment.

Designation of Corps.	Strength.				Establishment.
	Officers.	Sergeants.	Rank and file.	Total.	
Paid artillery - - -	2	4	124	130	192
Volunteers, cavalry - -	30	25	180	235	210
„ artillery - -	63	92	1,177	1,332	1,725
„ engineers - -	5	5	113	123	150
„ torpedo, &c. - -	4	—	22	26	30
„ rifles - -	71	94	1,417	1,582	1,825
Total - - -	175	220	3,033	3,428	4,132
Staff unattached, &c. - -	69	29	—	98	—
„ bands - - -	—	4	81	85	—
Grand Total - -	244	253	3,114	3,611	4,132

Naval forces.

54. The strength and establishment of the naval forces at the end of 1876 were as follow :—

Naval Forces—Strength and Establishment.

—	Strength.				Wanted to complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Petty Officers and Men.	Boys.	Total.		
H.M.V.S. *Cerberus* -	6	33	17	56	43	99
„ *Nelson* -	5	32	—	37	—	37
Naval reserve - -	9	216	—	225	4	229
Total - -	20	281	17	318	47	365

55. The following table shows the expenditure on defences during the last 22½ years:— Expenditure on defences, 1854 to 1876.

Expenditure on Defences, 1854 to 1876.

Year.	Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1854 and 1855 - -	287,973	—	287,973
1856 to 1864 - -	758,000	123,000	881,000
1865 - - -	38,434	7,743	46,177
1866 - - -	47,647	14,453	62,100
1867 - - -	64,606	17,243	81,849
1868 - - -	58,873	19,061	77,934
1869 - - -	34,200	12,672	46,872
1870 - - -	37,102	10,570	47,672
1871 (six months) -	21,014	6,305	27,319
1871–2 - - -	38,634	19,604	58,238
1872–3 - - -	35,367	18,641	54,008
1873–4 - - -	41,050	17,643	58,693
1874–5 - - -	37,847	17,135	54,982
1875–6 - - -	40,698	17,536	58,234
Towards cost of *Cerberus*	—	73,520	73,520
„ *Nelson* -	—	28,446	28,446
Total - -	1,541,445	403,572	1,945,017
Arms, ammunition, and stores for defences generally - -			47,408
Land certificates to volunteers, including naval brigade, computed at 1*l.* per acre - - - - - -			139,683
Grand Total - - - -			2,132,108

56. The number of names on the Victorian pension list in 1875–6 was 142, and the total amount of the pensions was 25,590*l.* Pensions.

57. The names on the list exceeded by three the number in 1874–5, but the amount of the pensions was less by 687*l.* than the amount in that year. Pensions, 1875 and 1876.

58. The average sum appointed to be paid to each pensioner in 1874–5, viz., 189*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, had become reduced to 180*l.* 4*s.* 2¾*d.* in 1875–6. Average amount of pensions.

59. The cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria numbered 59 both in 1875 and 1876. The shires numbered 108 in the former and 110 in the latter year. Municipalities.

60. The following is a statement of the number of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires, also of the estimated population, number of dwellings, total and annual value of rateable property, and the total revenue during the year 1876 :— Cities, towns, boroughs, and shires.

Municipalities—Number, Population, Value of Rateable Property, and Revenue, 1876.

Municipal Districts.	Number.	Estimated Population.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.	Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
				Total.	Annual.	
				£	£	£
Cities, towns, and boroughs -	59	398,117	88,516	29,638,515	2,971,823	446,256
Shires - -	110	411,735	89,373	43,435,832	3,649,874	595,146
Total - -	169	809,852	177,889	73,074,347	6,621,697	1,041,402

Municipalities rated at 1*s.* in the pound.

61. Of the cities, towns, and boronghs, 49 per cent. in 1875 and 47 per cent. in 1876 were rated at 1*s.* in the pound; of the shires, 87 per cent. in 1875 and 91 per cent. in 1876 were rated at that amount.

Municipalities rated under and over 1*s.* in the pound.

62. In 1875, 10, and in 1876, 8 municipal districts were rated at less than 1*s.* in the pound. In 1875, 34, and in 1876, 33 municipal districts were rated over that amount.

Revenue and expenditure of municipalities.

63. The revenue and expenditure in municipal districts during 1876 were as follow:—

Municipal Districts, 1876—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

——	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
Revenue.	£	£	£
From Government - -	61,872	294,840	356,712
„ rates - - -	189,535	169,730	359,265
„ tolls - - -	28,056	32,999	61,055
„ licenses - -	69,934	38,819	108,753
„ registration of dogs and goats - -	5,363	5,414	10,777
„ market dues - -	30,891	358	31,249
„ deposits on contracts -	9,918	23,435	33,353
„ other sources - -	50,687	29,551	80,238
Total - -	446,256	595,146	1,041,402
Expenditure.			
Public works - -	227,173	421,857	649,030
Salaries, &c. - - -	41,180	58,849	100,029
Deposits returned - -	9,147	24,338	33,485
Other expenditure - -	146,385	77,437	223,822
Total - -	423,885	582,481	1,006,366

Proportion of subsidy to revenue.

64. Fourteen per cent. of the revenue of cities, towns, and boroughs, and 50 per cent. of that of shires, were derived from grants from the general government.

65. Payments for salaries formed about 10 per cent. of the total expenditure of both descriptions of municipalities.

Salaries in municipalities.

66. In 20 of the individual cities, towns, and boroughs, and in 41 of the individual shires, the expenditure was in excess of the revenue; but notwithstanding this, the aggregate revenue of cities, towns, and boroughs exceeded the aggregate expenditure by 5 per cent., and the aggregate revenue of shires exceeded the aggregate expenditure by 2 per cent.

Municipalities in which expenditure exceeded revenue.

67. The Land Act now in force in Victoria is that of 1869 (33 Vict., No. 360). Under this Statute an extent of land not exceeding 320 acres is allowed to be selected by one person. The selection is held under license for three years, within which period the licensee must reside on his selection at least two years and a half, must enclose it, cultivate 1 acre out of every 10 acres, and generally effect improvements to the value of 20*s.* per acre. The rent payable during this period is 2*s.* per acre per annum, which is credited to the selector as part payment of the principal. At the expiration of the three years' license, the selector, if he obtain a certificate from the Board of Land and Works that he has complied with these conditions, may either purchase his holding by paying the balance of 14*s.* per acre, or may convert his license into a lease extending over seven years, at an annual rental of 2*s.* per acre, which is also credited to the selector as part payment of the fee simple. On the expiry of this lease the land becomes the freehold of the selector. The Statute also contains provision for the sale of Crown lands by auction at an upset price of 1*l.* per acre, or such higher sum as the Governor may direct, the whole amount to be so sold in any one year not to exceed 200,000 acres.

Land system of Victoria.

68. The land alienated from the Crown in fee simple during 1876 amounted to 476,584 acres. Of this extent, 476,038 acres were sold, and 546 acres were granted without purchase.

Crown lands alienated, 1876.

69. Of the area sold, 150,626 acres, or nearly a third, was disposed of by auction. Nearly the whole of the remainder was in the first instance selected under the system of deferred payments.

Crown lands sold by auction.

70. The extent of Crown lands sold from the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1876 was 10,823,988 acres, and the extent granted without purchase was 3,791 acres. The total extent alienated was thus 10,827,779 acres.

Crown lands alienated, 1836 to 1876.

71. The selected lands, of which the fee simple had not passed to the purchaser up to the end of the year, amounted to 7,213,148 acres. Of this area it is certain that at least 750,000 acres had been forfeited for non-fulfilment of conditions. The remainder, representing the area in process of alienation under deferred payments, amounted to 6,463,148 acres, the whole of which, should the legal conditions be duly complied with, will pass away from the Crown in the course of a few years.

Crown lands selected.

72. According to the latest estimate, the total area of the Colony is 56,446,720 acres, and if from this be deducted the sum of the lands granted, sold, and selected, amounting to 17,290,927

Crown lands unalienated.

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acres, it will follow that the residue, representing the Crown lands neither alienated nor in process of alienation, amounted at the end of 1876 to 39,155,793 acres.

Public estate, 1876.

73. The whole of this residue, however, is not available for selection, for it embraces lands occupied by roads, the unsold portions of the sites of towns, the State forests, auriferous, pastoral, and timber reserves, the land which is at present useless, owing to its mountainous character or to its being covered with mallee scrub, lakes, or lagoons. Deducting these lands from the extent unalienated and unselected, already stated to have been 39,155,793 acres, it will be found that the area open for selection is narrowed to 12,994,820 acres. This will be at once seen by the following table, which shows the condition of the public estate at the end of 1876 :—

Public Estate of Victoria on 31*st December* 1876.

Condition of Land.	Number of Acres.
Land alienated in fee simple - - - - - -	10,827,779
Land in process of alienation under deferred payments - -	6,463,148
Roads in connexion with the above - - - - -	902,051
Unsold land included in town reserves - - - -	242,922
Reserves in connexion with pastoral occupation (about) - -	350,000
Auriferous lands (about) - - - - - -	1,060,000
State forests not included in unavailable mountain ranges - -	223,300
Timber reserves - - - - - - -	382,700
Mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c. (about)	23,000,000
Area available for selection at end of 1876 - - - -	12,994,820
Total area of Victoria - - -	56,446,720

Crown lands available for selection.

74. Omitting the 23,000,000 acres covered by mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c., the remainder of the Colony, amounting to 33,446,720 acres, or about 59 per cent. of the total area, may be said to be suitable for occupation. Of this extent, at the end of 1876, 17,290,927 acres, or 52 per cent., were already alienated or in process of alienation; 3,160,973 acres, or 9 per cent., were occupied by reserves; and 12,994,820 acres, or 39 per cent., were available for selection.

Extent available for selection, 1875 and 1876.

75. The difference between the extent available for selection at the end of 1875 and at the end of 1876 was 942,133 acres. The extent so available was equal at the former period to 25 per cent., and at the latter period to 23 per cent., of the whole area of the Colony.

Amount realized on Crown land sales, 1876.

76. The amount realised for Crown lands sold in 1876 was 584,913*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* per acre. Of this sum, only 376,864*l.* was received during the year, the remainder having been paid in former years as rents and license fees. The proportion sold by auction realised 255,990*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 14*s.*

per acre, and the proportion sold otherwise than at auction realised 328,922*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.* per acre.

77. From the period of the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1876 the amount realised by the sale of Crown lands was 18,001,112*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* 3¼*d.* per acre. Amount realized, 1836 to 1876.

78. The squatting runs in 1876 numbered 822, or 43 less than in 1875. The area of Crown lands embraced in runs amounted in 1876 to 21,906,540 acres, or 1,061,099 acres less than in 1875. Squatting runs, number and area.

79. The average size of squatting runs was 26,552 acres in 1875, and 26,650 acres in 1876. This is exclusive of any purchased land attached thereto. Squatting runs, average size.

80. The rent paid for squatting runs is fixed in accordance with the grazing capabilities of the land. For the five years ended with 1875 it was charged at the rate of 4*s.* yearly for each head of cattle or horses, or 8*d.* for each sheep, the run was estimated to be able to depasture; but by the Land Act, 1875 (39 Vict., No. 515), the rate was changed to 5*s.* for cattle or horses, and 1*s.* for sheep, the change to take effect from the 31st December 1875. In 1875 the amount of rent received was 139,304*l.*, or 1·456*d.* (nearly 1½*d.*) per acre, and in 1876 the amount of rent received was 152,644*l.*, or 1·672*d.* (nearly 1¾*d.*) per acre. Rent of squatting runs.

81. The whole revenue from the sale and occupation of Crown lands amounted to 1,147,857*l.* in 1876. The receipts from auction sales were less by 35,240*l.* than in 1875, yet the total receipts showed an improvement of 141,028*l.* The land revenue may be thus divided:— Revenue from Crown lands.

Land Revenue, 1876.

	£
Temporary occupation - - -	194,535
Alienation in fee simple and progressive -	834,663
Penalties, fees, and interest - - -	118,659
Total - - - -	1,147,857

82. The agricultural statistics of Victoria are collected by the municipal bodies, who are required each year to furnish the Government statist, on or before the 31st March, such agricultural and other statistics relating to their districts on such forms and in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct. All persons are required to give correct information to the best of their knowledge and belief, and should they fail to do so they render themselves liable to a penalty not exceeding 10*l.* Collectors divulging or making extracts from the information they receive, except under special direction or authority of the Government statist, also render themselves liable to a penalty of 10*l.* Agricultural statistics.

83. A statement of the number of holdings, and of the extent of land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated in the year ended Land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated.

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31st March 1877, and the previous one, will be found in the following table. All the items show increase :—

Holdings and Land Occupied, Enclosed, and Cultivated, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March	Number of Holdings larger than One Acre.	Acres occupied.	Acres enclosed.	Acres under Tillage.
1876 - -	40,852	13,084,233	12,105,197	1,126,831
1877 - -	43,057	13,855,003	12,702,051	1,231,105
Increase -	2,205	770,770	596,854	104,274

Increase in occupied land, &c.

84. During the decenniad ended with the year under review the holdings, the land occupied, and that enclosed have nearly doubled, and the land under cultivation has more than doubled. The following are the figures :—

Increase in Ten Years, 1867 *to* 1877.

Holdings, number - - -	20,359
Acres occupied - - -	6,481,724
„ enclosed - - -	6,192,861
„ cultivated - - -	638,190

Area cultivated per head of population.

85. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1876 was 840,300, and the land under tillage, as returned three months later, being 1,231,105 acres, the average area cultivated to each person was 1·47 acres, as against 1·37 acres in the previous year.

Land under principal crops.

86. The following table shows the extent of land in Victoria placed under the principal crops in 1876 and 1877. An increase will be observed in the land under wheat, potatoes, and green forage, but a falling off in that under oats, barley, and hay :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1876 - -	321,401	124,100	31,568	36,901	155,274	308,405
1877 - -	401,417	115,209	25,034	40,450	147,408	362,554
Increase -	80,016	—	—	3,549	—	54,149
Decrease -	—	8,891	6,534	—	7,866	—

Produce of principal crops.

87. The gross produce of the same crops, except green forage, is shown as follows for 1876 and 1877. It will be observed that the yield of wheat and potatoes was greater in the latter year than in the former, but the reverse was the case as regards oats, barley, and hay :—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1876 - - -	4,978,914	2,719,795	700,665	124,377	206,613
1877 - - -	5,279,730	2,294,225	530,323	134,082	180,560
Increase -	300,816	—	—	9,705	—
Decrease -	—	425,570	170,342	—	26,053

Yield of principal crops, 1867 to 1877.

88. Taking the Colony as a whole, the average produce of wheat per acre in the year under review was 13·15 bushels, that of oats was 19·91 bushels, that of barley was 21·18 bushels, that of potatoes was 3·31 tons, that of hay was 1·22 tons. The average of wheat was exceeded in every year of the previous decenniad except 1871, and that of hay in all the years except 1869 and 1871; the average of oats and barley was exceeded only in 1867, 1870, and 1876; and that of potatoes only in 1873, 1875, and 1876. The following table shows the acreable yield of these crops during each of the last 11 years, also the average during the whole period :—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1867 *to* 1877.

Year ended 31st March	Average Produce per Acre of				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1867 - -	22·25	30·01	30·18	2·74	1·74
1868 - -	15·72	18·61	20·32	3·29	1·30
1869 - -	16·28	19·65	15·23	2·21	1·09
1870 - -	19·75	25·98	24·55	3·09	1·60
1871 - -	10·10	14·98	12·26	3·27	1·13
1872 - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
Average of 11 years	15·22	20·35	20·55	3·13	1·33

Minor crops.

89. In addition to the principal crops of which mention has been made, various descriptions of minor crops are also raised. These embrace maize, rye and bere, mangel-wurzel, pease and beans, millet, hops, opium poppies, grasses for seed, osiers for basket making, mulberries for feeding silkworms, tobacco, &c. The total area returned under these crops was 29,207 acres in 1875–6, and 31,468 acres in 1876–7.

Gardens and orchards.

90. The following table shows the land under gardens and orchards in 1876 and 1877. No return is made of the nature of

the crops grown or the quantity of produce raised. The increase in area during the year amounted to nearly 900 acres:—

Land under Gardens and Orchards, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March.	Gardens.	Orchards.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1876 - -	11,816	5,945	17,761
1877 - -	12,241	6,400	18,641
Increase -	425	455	880

Classification of holdings as to size.

91. The following table shows the number of holdings of various sizes, and the extent of occupied and cultivated land embraced therein according to the returns of the present year. It must be borne in mind that all the land alienated from the Crown is not included, but only that embraced in holdings above a certain minimum size, and showing sufficient evidence of occupation for agricultural or pastoral purposes to cause it to come under the notice of the collectors of agricultural statistics:—

Classification of Holdings as to size, 1876–7.

Size of Holdings.	Number of Holdings.	Extent of sold or selected Land in Occupation.	Extent of Land under Tillage.
		Acres.	Acres.
1 acre to 4 acres -	1,673	4,874	2,836
5 acres to 14 „ -	3,536	31,138	13,981
15 „ 29 „ -	3,897	80,309	25,333
30 „ 49 „ -	3,284	125,895	34,023
50 „ 99 „ -	5,998	432,307	93,693
100 „ 199 „ -	8,103	1,144,521	204,474
200 „ 320 „ -	11,664	3,315,835	415,368
321 „ 400 „ -	1,132	407,982	62,586
401 „ 500 „ -	920	414,704	60,201
501 „ 600 „ -	590	325,006	41,111
601 „ 700 „ -	503	325,065	32,464
701 „ 800 „ -	226	169,558	19,361
801 „ 900 „ -	190	161,372	16,467
901 „ 1,000 „ -	175	166,975	14,025
1,001 „ 1,500 „ -	381	468,607	36,055
1,501 „ 2,000 „ -	170	298,424	20,416
2,001 „ 3,000 „ -	148	367,520	17,672
3,001 „ 4,000 „ -	84	294,106	12,769
4,001 „ 5,000 „ -	56	256,607	10,110
5,001 „ 7,500 „ -	74	456,714	15,830
7,501 „ 10,000 „ -	49	426,266	5,650
10,001 „ 15,000 „ -	76	947,101	27,046
15,001 „ 20,000 „ -	50	870,023	6,285
20,001 „ 30,000 „ -	47	1,119,836	27,974
30,001 „ 40,000 „ -	21	712,138	12,841
40,001 „ and upwards -	10	532,120	2,534
Total - -	43,057	13,855,003	1,231,105

92. Each collector furnishes a statement of the price of the principal articles of agricultural produce in his district at the time he makes his rounds. The following is an average deduced from the returns of all the districts during each of the last ten years:— Prices of agricultural produce.

Prices of Agricultural Produce, 1868 *to* 1877.

During February and March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Ton.	Per Ton.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1868	7 3	3 11	4 4	82 0	72 6
1869	5 5	4 6	4 11	124 10	113 4
1870	4 3	3 7	4 0	75 0	77 0
1871	5 4	3 9	4 11	70 0	76 0
1872	4 8	2 11½	3 6¼	65 6	64 0
1873	4 9	3 5	4 1	67 4	81 0
1874	5 9	5 6	5 3	118 3	88 0
1875	4 5	4 3	4 6	89 0	89 0
1876	4 7	3 3	3 10	82 0	82 0
1877	5 10	3 7	3 10	114 0	93 0

93. It will be observed that wheat was highest in 1868 and lowest in 1870; that oats and barley were highest in 1874 and lowest in 1872; and that potatoes and hay were highest in 1869 and lowest in 1872. Years of highest and lowest price.

94. Subjoined is an estimate of the value of the crops raised during the year ended 31st March 1877. It will be seen that the total amount exceeded five and a half millions sterling:— Value of agricultural produce.

Value of Agricultural Produce, 1876–7.

Name of Crop.	Gross Produce and Price.	Estimated Value.
		£ *s. d.*
Wheat - - -	5,279,730 bushels at 0 5 10	1,539,921 5 0
Oats - - - -	2,294,225 „ at 0 3 7	411,048 12 11
Barley - - -	530,323 „ at 0 3 10	101,645 4 10
Other cereals - - -	415,043 „ at 0 4 8	96,843 7 4
Potatoes - - -	134,082 tons at 5 14 0	764,267 8 0
Other green crops - -	24,164 „ at 5 0 0	120,820 0 0
Hay - - - -	180,560 „ at 4 13 0	839,604 0 0
Green forage - - -	362,554 acres at 3 0 0	1,087,662 0 0
Tobacco - - -	14,413 cwt. at 2 16 0	40,356 8 0
Grapes, not made into wine -	85,111 „ at 1 0 0	85,111 0 0
Wine - - - -	481,588 gallons at 0 4 0	96,317 12 0
Brandy - - -	3,725 „ at 0 10 0	1,862 10 0
Other crops - - -	3,192 acres at 5 0 0	15,960 0 0
Garden and orchard produce -	18,641 „ at 20 0 0	372,820 0 0
	Total - -	5,574,239 8 1

95. The standard weight of crops in Victoria is reckoned to be 60 lbs. to the bushel for wheat and maize, 40 lbs. for oats, and 50 lbs. for barley. The actual weight, however, differs in different districts. Thus, wheat during the past year ranged Weight of crops.

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from 58 lbs. to 64 lbs.; oats, from 35 lbs. to 44 lbs.; barley, from 45 lbs. to 56 lbs.; and maize, from 50 lbs. to 60 lbs. The average weight per bushel of these crops in all the districts during the past two years was as follows:—

Specific Weight of Crops, 1876 *and* 1877.

Average Weight per Bushel of	1875–6.	1876–7.
	lbs.	lbs.
Wheat - - -	61	61
Oats - - -	40	40
Barley - - -	50	51
Maize - - -	55	55

Hands employed on farms and stations.

96. As compared with the numbers returned in 1876, a falling off took place in the hands employed on stations; but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase of the hands on farms. The following are the returns of the two years. The proprietors or managers of farms and stations are included:—

*Hands employed on Farms and Stations,** 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March.	Hands Employed on Farms.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1876 - - -	61,273	27,446	88,719
1877 - - -	63,394	28,747	92,141
Increase - -	2,121	1,301	3,422

Year ended 31st March.	Hands Employed on Stations.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1876 - - -	4,669	1,339	6,008
1877 - - -	4,276	1,332	5,608
Decrease - - -	393	7	400
Net increase on farms and stations - -	1,728	1,294	3,022

Live stock.

97. The live stock on farms and land not attached to squatting stations, and the live stock on squatting stations, were returned as follow for the last two years. An increase will be observed in the number of cattle and pigs, but a falling off in the number of

* The word "farm," as used in connexion with the agricultural statistics, implies a holding of which no portion is subject to a squatting license. The word "station" implies a holding of which portion is subject to a squatting license. "Farms" consist of alienated land only. "Stations" consist either of Crown lands only or of Crown and alienated lands occupied in the same holdings.

sheep. On farms all the stock show increase except horses, but on stations all the stock fell off in numbers except cattle, and of these a reduction took place in the number used for dairying purposes:—

Live Stock on Farms and on Stations 1876 *and* 1877.

ON FARMS AND LAND UNCONNECTED WITH STATIONS.

Year ended 31st March	Horses.	Cattle.			Sheep.	Pigs.
		Milch Cows.	Exclusive of Milch Cows.	Total.		
1876 -	177,679	242,694	653,926	896,620	6,426,698	136,844
1877 -	177,483	264,648	694,498	959,146	6,444,786	171,729
Increase -	—	21,954	40,572	62,526	18,088	34,885
Decrease -	196	—	—	—	—	—

ON STATIONS.

1876 -	18,505	12,443	145,535	157,978	5,322,834	3,921
1877 -	17,285	12,424	156,695	169,119	4,834,107	3,849
Increase -	—	—	11,160	11,141	—	—
Decrease -	1,220	19	—	—	488,727	72

TOTAL LIVE STOCK.

1876 -	196,184	255,137	799,461	1,054,598	11,749,532	140,765
1877	194,768	277,072	851,193	1,128,265	11,278,893	175,578
Increase -	—	21,935	51,732	73,667	—	34,813
Decrease -	1,416	—	—	—	470,639	—

98. The returns show an increase in the use of steam machinery in the furtherance of both agricultural and pastoral pursuits during the year under review as compared with the previous one. The following are the figures:— Steam engines on farms and stations.

Steam Engines on Farms and Stations, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March	Steam Engines.					
	On Farms.		On Stations.		Total.	
	Number.	Horse Power.	Number.	Horse Power.	Number.	Horse Power.
1876 -	253	2,081	23	201	276	2,282
1877 -	315	2,332	27	237	342	2,569
Increase -	62	251	4	36	66	

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Agricultural implements, &c.

99. An increase appears in the value of agricultural implements and machines on farms, but a falling off in the value of those on stations. The same circumstance was noticed last year:—

Implements and Machines on Farms and Stations, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March.	Value of Implements and Machines.		
	On Farms.	On Stations.	Total.
	£	£	£
1876 - - -	1,623,697	80,467	1,704,164
1877 - - -	1,734,976	74,883	1,809,859
Increase - - -	111,279	—	105,695
Decrease - - -	—	5,584	—

Improvements on farms and stations.

100. An increase also appears in the value of improvements on farms, but a falling off in the value of those on stations, of which a statement is given in the following table. The improvements to which reference is made are buildings of all descriptions, fencing, dips, wells, dams, &c., but the cost of clearing or cropping land is not given :—

Improvements on Farms and Stations, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March.	Value of Improvements.		
	On Farms.	On Stations.	Total.
	£	£	£
1876 - - -	11,987,818	1,889,866	13,877,684
1877 - - -	13,757,526	1,869,725	15,627,251
Increase - - -	1,769,708	—	1,749,567
Decrease - - -	—	20,141	—

List of manufactories.

101. The manufacturing establishments of all kinds, respecting which returns are obtained, are named in the following table, and their numbers are given for the year under review, and for the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads. The establishments are for the most part of an extensive character, the only exception being in cases where the existence of industries of an unusual or interesting nature might seem to call for notice. No attempt is made to enumerate mere shops, although some manufacturing industry may be carried on thereat. Were this done, the "manufactories" in the Colony might be multiplied to an almost indefinite extent. It is customary to note all establishments where machinery worked by steam, water, wind, or horse-power is used.

Manufactories, Works, &c., 1866–7, 1871–2, *and* 1876–7.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.		
	1866–7.	1871–2.	1876–7.
BOOKS AND STATIONERY.			
Account book manufactories, manufacturing stationers	4	13	16
Printing establishments	13	21	33
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Organ building establishments	2	1	2
Pianoforte manufactories	5	9	7
PRINTS, PICTURES, &C.			
Picture-frame makers	—	—	6
CARVING, FIGURES, &C.			
Carving and gilding establishments	—	—	5
India-rubber stamp manufactories	—	—	3
Modelling (architectural and figure) &c., works	—	—	3
Statuary works	—	—	1
Turnery works	—	—	12
Wood carving and ornamental works	—	—	1
Wooden pipe manufactories	—	2	2
DESIGNS, MEDALS, AND DIES.			
Diesinkers, engravers, medalists, trade mark makers	—	—	5
PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUMENTS, &C.			
Philosophical instrument manufactories	—	—	2
Spectacles manufactories	—	—	1
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Surgical instrument, truss manufactories	—	—	5
ARMS, AMMUNITION, &C.			
Blasting powder, dynamite, &c. manufactories	—	—	3
Fuze manufactories	1	—	1
Gun makers	—	—	4
MACHINES, TOOLS, AND IMPLEMENTS.			
Agricultural implement manufactories	22	43	46
Bellows manufactories	—	—	1
Cutlery, machine tool manufactories	—	2	7
Engine, machine manufactories	20	24	53
CARRIAGES AND HARNESS.			
Coach, waggon, &c. manufactories	3	5	116*
Perambulator manufactories	—	—	1
Saddle harness manufactories	—	—	29
Saddletree, &c. manufactories	—	—	2
Saddlers' ironmongery and coach-spring manufactories	—	—	3
Whip manufactories	—	2	5

* Including all extensive manufactories, whether employing steam or not. For 1866-7 and 1871-2 those only which used steam were returned.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.		
	1866–7.	1871–2.	1876–7.
SHIPS AND BOATS.			
Ship, boat builders	14	13	19
Ships' wheels, blocks, &c. manufactories	—	—	2
Floating docks	6	8	—
Graving docks			3
Patent slips			4
HOUSES, BUILDINGS, &C.			
Door and window-frame works (*see also* moulding, &c., mills, *post*)	—	—	2
Lime works	19	36	24
Marble mantelpiece manufactories (*see also* marble works, *post*)	—	—	3
Patent ceiling ventilator manufactories	—	—	1
Roof-covering composition manufactories	—	—	1
FURNITURE.			
Bedding and upholstery manufactories	—	9	11
Cabinet works, including billiard table makers	4	3	26*
Earth-closet manufactories	—	2	3
Iron safe manufactories	—	1	1
Looking glass manufactories	—	2	5
CHEMICALS.			
Chemical works	6	6	5
Dye works	9	11	14
Essential oil manufactories	—	2	5
Ink, blacking, blue, washing powder, &c. manufactories	1	4	8
Japanners	—	—	1
Match (vesta) manufactories	1	—	1
Paint, varnish manufactories	—	1	2
Salt works	1	2	5
Tar-distilling, asphalte works	—	1	3
TEXTILE FABRICS.			
Woollen mills	—	3	8
DRESS.			
Boot manufactories	3	29	67
Clothing factories	18	30	53
Crinoline manufactories	4	—	—
Fur manufactories	—	—	3
Hat, cap manufactories	2	10	22
Oilskin, waterproof clothing manufactories	—	—	2
Umbrella and parasol manufactories	—	—	7
FIBROUS MATERIALS.			
Bag and sack manufactories	1	—	—
Jute factories	—	—	1
Rope, twine works	3	10	13
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Cheese factories	—	—	25
Meat-curing establishments	6	22	15

* Including all extensive manufactories, whether employing steam or not. For 1866–7 and 1871–2 those only which used steam were returned.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.		
	1866–7.	1871–2.	1876–7.
VEGETABLE FOOD.			
Biscuit manufactories	8	8	7
Confectionery works	4	4	8
Flour mills	114	154	152
Jam manufactories	1	4	8
Macaroni works	—	1	1
Maizena, oatmeal, starch manufactories	1	1	3
Rice mills	—	2	1
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.			
Aërated waters, ginger beer, liqueur, &c. works	63	115	114
Breweries	86	126	102
Coffee, chocolate, spice works	9	13	10
Chicory mills	—	—	1
Distilleries	4	6	6
Malthouses	9	16	13
Saccharine works	—	1	—
Sauce, pickle manufactories	—	4	3
Sugar refineries	1	1	2
Tobacco, cigar, snuff manufactories	9	9	13
Vinegar works	—	—	5
ANIMAL MATTERS.			
Boiling-down establishments	7	27	19
Bone-cutting mills	—	—	1
Bone manure manufactories	12	18	15
Brush manufactories	1	2	6
Catgut manufactories	—	1	—
Curled hair manufactories	1	—	3
Fellmongeries, wool-washing establishments	23	36	52
Flock manufactories	2	4	3
Glue, oil manufactories	2	5	8
Morocco fancy leather manufactories	—	1	2
Parchment and skin manufactories	—	1	—
Portmanteau, trunk manufactories	—	—	7
Soap, candle, tallow works	28	31	42
Tanneries	43	69	96
VEGETABLE MATTERS.			
Bark mills	—	—	4
Basket-making works	—	—	9
Blind (window) manufactories	—	—	10
Broom manufactories	—	2	2
Chaff-cutting, corn-crushing works	69	172	177
Cooperage works	—	8	19
Cork manufactories	—	—	1
Fancy box manufactories	—	2	2
Hat-box manufactories	—	—	2
Ladders and steps joineries	—	—	2
Moulding, framing, turning, and saw mills (*see also* houses, buildings, &c. *ante*)	102	141	159
Packing-case manufactories	1	—	—
Paper manufactories	—	1	1
Paper-bag manufactories	—	—	6
COAL.			
Gas works	8	11	15

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.		
	1866–7.	1871–2.	1876–7.
STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS.			
Brickyards and potteries - - -	151	328	241
Filter manufactories - - - -	—	—	2
Glass manufactories, works - - -	1	4	8
Kaolin works - - - - -	—	1	—
Marble and monumental works (*see also* marble mantelpiece works, *ante*) - - -	—	3	19
Stone-breaking works - - -	1	1	5
Stone-sawing, polishing works - -	—		4
WATER.			
Ice manufactories - - - -	1	2	3
GOLD, SILVER, AND PRECIOUS STONES.			
Electro-plating and gilding works - -	—	1	4
Goldsmiths and jewellers (manufacturing) -	—	—	19
Lapidaries - - - - - -	—	—	1
METALS OTHER THAN GOLD AND SILVER.			
Antimony smelting works - - -	—	3	5
Bell foundries - - - - -	—	—	1
Iron and tin works - - - -	5	11	53
Iron, brass, and copper foundries - -	45	59	77
Lead works - - - - -	2	2	1
Tin-smelting works - - - -	—	—	1
Type foundries - - - -	—	1	—
Wire-working establishments - - -	—	—	6
Total - - -	982	1,740	2,302

Summary of manufactories.

102. Summarised particulars respecting these manufactories are given for the same three periods in the following table. Increasing numbers at each successive period will be observed in all the columns, the augmentation shown being no doubt almost entirely due to the starting of fresh works and the extension of old ones. It is possible, however, that in consequence of the greater care exercised of late years by the collectors in returning every establishment, an appearance of increase may have sometimes resulted without any actual increase having occurred :—

Summary of Manufactories, Works, &c., 1867, 1872, *and* 1877.

Year ended 31st March	Total Number of Establishments.	Number of Establishments using Steam.	Horse Power of Engines.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
					£
1867 -	982	419	7,072	11,330	1,747,702
1872 -	1,740	701	9,442	19,468	3,731,461
1877 -	2,302	918	12,771	31,478	6,025,745

Gold raised, 1875 and 1876.

103. The quantity of gold raised in Victoria in 1876, and its value at 4*l.* per oz., are compared in the following table with the quantity and assumed value of the gold estimated to have been raised in 1875 :

Quantity and Value of Gold raised in 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Gold raised in Victoria.	
	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	oz.	£
1875 - - - -	1,095,787	4,383,148
1876 - - - -	963,760	3,855,040
Decrease - -	132,027	528,108

Gold raised, 1870 to 1876.

104. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1870 and each subsequent year. It will be seen that since 1871 the yield of gold has been steadily decreasing :—

Estimated Quantity of Gold raised, 1870 *to* 1876.

	oz.		oz.
1870 - -	1,222,798	1874 - -	1,155,972
1871 - -	1,355,477	1875 - -	1,095,787
1872 - -	1,282,521	1876 - -	963,760
1873 - -	1,241,205		

Gold raised, 1851 to 1876.

105. The following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851 to the end of 1876 :—

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 *to* 1876.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	ozs.	£
Prior to 1876 - - -	45,509,964	182,039,856
During 1876 - - -	963,760	3,855,040
Total - -	46,473,724	185,894,896

Value of gold per miner.

106. The estimated value of gold raised in proportion to the number of miners at work was much less in 1876 than in 1875,

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or than in any other year since 1870. The following figures express this proportion for each of the last seven years:—

Value of Gold per Miner, 1870 *to* 1876.

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1870 - -	81	0	6·46	1874 - -	99	8	3·07
1871 - -	93	6	0·62	1875 - -	104	4	4·02
1872 - -	93	17	1·47	1876 - -	89	19	6·84
1873 - -	93	16	2·62				

Gold derived from alluvial and from quartz workings.

107. It is estimated that in 1876 605,859 oz., or 63 per cent. of the whole quantity of gold raised, was obtained from quartz reefs, and 357,901 oz., or 37 per cent. of the whole quantity raised, was obtained from alluvial deposits. In the two previous years 60 per cent. of the gold was got from quartz, and 40 per cent. from alluvial mines.

Steam engines used in mining.

108. Of the steam engines employed in connexion with gold mining about a fourth are used on alluvial and three fourths on quartz workings. The following is the number of engines in use and their horse-power in each of the last four years. It will be noticed that a slight falling off has taken place from year to year:—

Steam Engines used in Gold Mining, 1873 *to* 1876.

—	Number.	Horse-power.	—	Number.	Horse-power.
1873	1,151	25,100	1875	1,101	24,224
1874	1,141	24,866	1876	1,081	23,947

Mining machines, 1874, 1875, and 1876.

109. The number of mining machines of all descriptions fell from 5,220 in 1874, and 5,098 in 1875, to 4,893 in 1876, and the value of such machines fell from 2,078,936*l.* in 1874, and 2,033,629*l.* in 1875, to 1,989,500*l.* in 1876.

Minerals other than gold raised.

110. The following are the values of metals and minerals other than gold raised in Victoria since the first discovery of gold in 1851. The value of such metals and minerals raised in 1876 was 31,378*l.*:—

Value of Metals and Minerals other than Gold, 1851 *to* 1876.

	£		£
Silver - -	21,206	Slates - -	940
Tin - -	336,391	Magnesite -	12
Copper -	8,331	Ores, &c. unenumerated -	2,608
Antimony -	120,040	Diamonds -	107
Lead - -	4,802	Sapphires -	625
Iron - -	2,111		
Coal - -	9,875	Total -	£557,306
Lignite -	2,251		
Kaolin - -	7,444		
Flagging -	40,563		

111. The patents for inventions applied for during 1876 numbered 155, as against 154 during the previous year. Since 1854 the total number of patents applied for has been 2,336. Patents.

112. The Victorian Copyright Act (33 Vict. No. 350) came into force in December 1869. Since then the following copyrights have been registered:— Copyrights,

Prior to 1876 - - -	1,687
During 1876 - - -	289
Total -	1,976

113. Since the first opening in 1872 of a branch of the Royal Mint in Melbourne, the following quantities of gold have been received thereat. A steady increase in the business is observable from year to year:— Royal Mint, 1872 to 1876.

Gold received at the Melbourne Mint, 1872 to 1876.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	oz.	£
1872 - - - -	190,738	764,917
1873 - - - -	221,870	887,127
1874 - - - -	335,318	1,349,102
1875 - - - -	489,732	1,947,713
1876 - - - -	543,198	2,149,481
Total - -	1,780,856	7,098,340

114. From the Mint both coin and bullion are issued, the coin, with the exception of 165,000 half-sovereigns which were issued in 1873, has consisted entirely of sovereigns. The following is a statement of the gold issued, whether in the shape of coin or bullion:— Coin and bullion issued.

Gold issued at Melbourne Mint, 1872 to 1876.

Year.	Coin.		Bullion.		Total Value of Coin and Bullion.
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Number.	Number.	oz.	£	£
1872	748,000	—	1,205,468	3,610	751,610
1873	752,000	165,000	3,106,002	11,035	845,535
1874	1,373,000	—	2,911,722	10,417	1,383,417
1875	1,888,000	—	3,552,872	13,857	1,901,857
1876	2,124,000	—	3,624,578	14,145	2,138,145
Total -	6,885,000	165,000	14,400,642	53,064	7,020,564

115. There were 12 banks of issue in Victoria during 1876, possessing therein 293 branches or agencies. In the first year of each of the two previous quinquennial periods there were 10 banks of issue in the Colony. Number of banks.

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Rates of exchange.

116. Subjoined are the average rates of exchange for bank bills drawn on the following places in 1876, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads. Those upon London are drawn at 60 days' sight, and those upon the neighbouring Colonies at sight.

Rates of Exchange, 1866, 1871, *and* 1876.

Places on which Bills were drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1866.	1871.	1876.
London - -	par to 1½ per cent. premium.	par to 1 per cent. premium.	12*s.* 6*d.* to 1¼ per cent. premium.
British India -	3 per cent. premium, 2*s.* 1*d.* per rupee.	4 per cent. premium, 2*s.* 1*d.* per rupee.	5 per cent. premium, 2*s.* per rupee.
New South Wales	¼ to ¾ per cent. premium	¼ per cent. premium -	4*s.* 6*d.* to ¼ per cent. premium.
Queensland -	13*s.* to 1 per cent. premium.	½ to 1 per cent. premium	½ to 1 per cent. premium.
South Australia -	½ to 1 per cent. premium	¼ to ½ per cent. premium	¼ to ½ per cent. premium.
Tasmania -	¼ to 1 per cent. premium	¼ to ¾ per cent. premium	¼ to ½ per cent. premium.
New Zealand -	½ to 1 per cent. premium	½ to ¾ per cent. premium	¼ to ¾ per cent. premium.

Rates of discount.

117. The average rates of discount on local bills have been as follow during the same three years. It will be observed that the rates were higher at the first period than at either of the subsequent periods, but they were slightly higher at the last than at the middle period:—

Rates of Discount on Local Bills, 1866, 1871, *and* 1876.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rates of Discount per Annum.		
	1866.	1871.	1876.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Under 65 days - -	7 to 8	6 to 7	7
65 to 95 „ - -	8 to 9	6 to 7	8
95 to 125 „ - -	9 to 10	7 to 8	8 to 9
Over 125 „ - -	10 to 12	8 to 9	9 to 10

Liabilities, assets, &c. of banks.

118. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits according to the returns sworn to in the last quarter of the same three years was as follows:—

Liabilities.

——	1866.	1871.	1876.
	£	£	£
Notes in circulation - - -	1,211,887	1,249,213	1,335,478
Bills in circulation - - -	144,694	121,504	54,472
Balances due to other banks - -	101,223	133,017	287,179
Deposits not bearing interest - -	2,987,270	3,831,317	4,722,549
Deposits bearing interest - -	5,301,501	7,527,599	10,127,599
Total - -	9,746,575	12,862,650	16,527,277

Assets.

——	1866.	1871.	1876.
	£	£	£
Coined gold, silver, and other metals -	1,377,645	2,385,350	3,162,188
Gold and silver in bullion and bars -	492,481	487,499	357,189
Landed property - - -	545,106	635,868	790,129
Notes and bills of other banks - -	151,745	159,507	129,000
Balances due from other banks - -	210,805	313,408	341,156
Government securities - - -	40,136	—	—
Debts due to the banks - - -	12,067,437	13,240,460	19,138,461
Total - -	14,885,355	17,222,092	23,918,123

Capital and Profits.

Capital stock paid up - - -	£8,092,555	£8,276,250	£8,630,745
Average per annum of rates of last dividend declared by the banks -	$10\frac{2}{5}$ per cent.	$9\frac{4}{20}$ per cent.	$10\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.
Average rate of interest per annum paid to shareholders - - -	12·375 per cent.	9·920 per cent.	11·757 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared -	£500,750	£410,500	£507,340
Amount of reserved profits, after declaring dividend - - -	£2,151,287	£2,091,991	£2,650,096

Interest on deposits with banks.

119. The rates of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the banks were not returned for 1866 and 1871. The rates on deposits left for a period of 12 months ranged from 5 to 6 per cent. in both 1876 and 1875, and from 4 to 6 per cent. in 1874.

Savings banks.

120. Two kinds of savings banks exist in Victoria, the ordinary savings banks, which were established in 1842, and the post office savings banks, which were established in 1865. The following figures show the number of institutions, the number of depositors having accounts at the last dates of balancing in 1876, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates:—

Savings Banks, 1876.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Depositors' Balances.	
			Total Amount.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Post Office savings banks -	159	41,521	617,277	14 17 4
Ordinary savings banks -	11	27,506	889,958	32 7 1
Total - -	170	69,027	1,507,235	21 16 $8\frac{1}{2}$

Depositors in savings banks.

121. The number of depositors in savings banks has been increasing from year to year. With the exception of 1874, there was a larger amount remaining on deposit in 1876 than in any

former year. The following are the figures during the last five years :—

—	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.
		£
1872 - -	52,749	1,405,738
1873 - -	58,547	1,498,618
1874 - -	64,014	1,617,301
1875 - -	65,837	1,469,849
1876 - -	69,027	1,507,235

Rate of interest in savings banks.

122. Four per cent. per annum, which is the highest rate of interest savings banks are permitted to give, was allowed by both classes of institutions on moneys left on deposit.

Mortgages, 1866 to 1876.

123. The following figures show the number of registered mortgages and liens of all descriptions, and the amounts advanced in respect thereof, during each of the last 11 years. It will be observed that the greatest number of transactions took place in 1876, but the amount advanced was larger in 1873 and 1874 than in that year:—

Mortgages, 1866 *to* 1876.

—	Number of Transactions.	Amount.	—	Number of Transactions.	Amount.
		£			£
1866 -	3,313	4,795,390	1872 -	5,151	4,076,229
1867 -	3,380	3,754,672	1873 -	5,155	5,248,365
1868 -	3,509	3,485,315	1874 -	5,929	6,019,904
1869 -	4,036	4,701,485	1875 -	6,035	4,542,569
1870 -	4,410	4,203,743	1876 -	6,417	5,081,387
1871 -	4,849	4,278,197			

Amount advanced on mortgage, 1866 to 1876.

124. By the above figures it is shown that in the 11 years named the number of mortgages exceeded 52,000, and the aggregate amount advanced on mortgage exceeded 50 millions sterling.

Bills of sale.

125. The bills of sale filed and satisfied in the last three years were as follow. It will be observed that most bills of sale were filed in 1876, but the amount was greatest in the preceding year:—

Bills of Sale, 1874 *to* 1876.

Year.	Bills of Sale filed.		Bills of Sale satisfied.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1874 - -	3,207	727,370	251	98,492
1875 - -	3,182	788,339	189	85,477
1876 - -	3,330	747,717	194	56,318

126. The following are the different descriptions of effects, on the security of which money was lent on bill of sale in the same three years:—

Effects on which bills of sale were granted.

Security for Bills of Sale, 1874 *to* 1876.

Security.	Number of Bills of Sale granted.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.
Farm produce and live stock - -	692	776	818
Household furniture, with or without other goods - - - -	1,644	1,677	1,603
Houses, with and without furniture and lands - - - - -	12	9	97
Houses on Crown lands, with and without furniture, live stock, merchandise, &c. - - - -	169	85	148
Merchandise, with or without book debts - - - -	265	204	257
Mining plant - - - -	122	104	79
Machinery, not mining - - -	34	32	27
Working plant, not mining - -	246	279	282
Other effects - - - -	23	16	19
Total - - -	3,207	3,182	3,330

127. Fifty-eight building societies sent in returns of their operations during 1876, as against 61 in the previous year. The following are the principal items furnished for the year under review. It should be observed that the returns of some of the societies were not perfect:—

Building societies.

Building Societies, 1876.

Number of societies - - - -	58
Number of members - - - -	21,750
	£
Amount advanced during the year - - -	870,203
Income during the year - - - -	1,011,397
Working expenses during the year - - -	28,571
Assets at date of balancing - - - -	2,750,660
Liabilities - - - - - -	2,352,282
Moneys on deposit at date of balancing - -	611,598

128. The rates of interest allowed by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of 12 months ranged from $5\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 per cent. during the year. These are the extreme figures; the average rates were from 6 to 7 per cent.

Rates of interest in building societies.

129. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of 1876 with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:—

Moneys on deposit at end of 1876.

Moneys on Deposit about the end of 1876.	£
Amount deposited with banks of issue - -	14,850,148
" " savings banks - -	1,507,235
" " building societies - -	611,598
Total - - - -	16,968,981

Imports, exports, and trade, 1876.

130. In 1876 the total declared value of the imports was 15,705,354*l.*, and that of the exports 14,196,487*l.*, the excess of imports over exports was thus 1,508,867*l.*, and the total value of external trade 29,901,841*l.*

Imports and exports, 1875 and 1876.

131. The value of the imports was not so great in 1876 as in 1875 by 980,520*l.*; the value of the exports was also less in 1876 than in 1875 by 570,487*l.*

Imports and exports, 1876 and former years.

132. The value of the imports in 1876 was exceeded in the three previous years, and in 1857 and 1854; the value of the exports in 1876 was also exceeded in the three previous years, and in 1871, 1868, 1857, and 1856.

Imports and exports per head.

133. The value of exports per head of the population was less in 1876 than in any year since that of the separation from New South Wales; the total value of trade per head was less than in any of those years except 1870; and the value of imports per head was less than in any of those years except 1867, 1870, 1871, and 1872. The following table shows the values per head in each year, commencing with that in which Victoria became an independent Colony:—

Imports and Exports per Head, 1851 *to* 1876.

Year.	Value per Head of the Population of		
	Imports.	Exports.	Both.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1851 - -	12 3 4	16 7 9	28 11 1
1852 - -	30 12 5	56 1 4	86 13 9
1853 - -	81 1 9	56 12 4	137 14 1
1854 - -	66 0 11	44 0 10	110 1 9
1855 - -	35 9 10	39 17 8	75 7 6
1856 - -	39 5 6	40 13 3	79 18 9
1857 - -	40 2 0	35 0 10	75 2 10
1858 - -	31 4 6	28 18 3	60 2 9
1859 - -	30 4 1	26 16 3	57 0 4
1860 - -	27 19 8	24 0 8	52 0 4
1861 - -	25 0 3	25 11 3	50 11 6
1862 - -	24 11 10	23 15 6	48 7 4
1863 - -	25 3 0	24 3 4	49 6 4
1864 - -	25 8 4	23 11 10	49 0 2
1865 - -	21 10 2	21 6 8	42 16 10
1866 - -	23 5 11	20 6 7	43 12 6
1867 - -	17 19 4	19 11 8	37 11 0
1868 - -	19 16 11	23 4 8	43 1 7
1869 - -	19 19 2	19 6 5	39 5 7
1870 - -	17 10 11	17 11 4	35 2 3
1871 - -	16 14 2	19 14 2	36 8 4
1872 - -	17 19 10	18 4 7	36 4 5
1873 - -	21 3 9	19 12 2	40 15 11
1874 - -	21 4 7	19 6 8	40 11 3
1875 - -	20 9 6	18 2 4	38 11 10
1876 - -	18 18 1	17 1 10	35 19 11

Imports and exports, the produce of various countries.

134. The value of the imports of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British dominions, and of foreign states, and the value of the exports of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the same countries and of Victoria; also the per-centage of such values to the total value of imports and exports in 1876, will be found in the following table:—

Imports and Exports, the Produce of different Countries, 1876.

Articles, the Produce or Manufacture of	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Victoria - - -	—	—	10,155,916	71·54
The United Kingdom -	7,027,138	44·74	1,293,670	9·11
Other British Possessions -	5,756,090	36·65	1,990,726	14·02
Foreign States - -	2,922,126	18·61	756,175	5·33
Total - -	15,705,354	100·00	14,196,487	100·00

Trade with various countries, 1876.

135. Nearly half the imports are from the United Kingdom, and more than a quarter from New South Wales. The latter consist chiefly of wool and live stock. Fully half the exports are to the United Kingdom, after which the countries to which the greatest value of goods are sent are those grouped under the head of "other British possessions," which receive 22 per cent. of the whole exports, the articles being chiefly gold and specie sent to Ceylon, intended generally, no doubt, for further shipment to the United Kingdom. Next to these countries, the best customer for Victorian exports is New South Wales, which received, in 1876, 14 per cent. of the whole. The value of the imports from and the exports to the different countries, and the per-centage of such values to the total imports and exports, are given in the following table:—

Imports from and Exports to different Countries, 1876.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
The United Kingdom - -	7,303,271	46·50	7,128,841	50·22
New South Wales - -	4,094,414	26·07	1,987,199	14·00
Queensland - - -	21,573	·14	62,166	·44
South Australia - - -	403,118	2·57	454,072	3·20
Western Australia - -	10,939	·07	49,265	·34
Tasmania - - - -	251,255	1·60	420,132	2·96
New Zealand - - -	696,448	4·43	838,251	5·90
Other British Possessions - -	1,300,444	8·28	3,136,165	22·09
The United States - -	414,996	2·64	113,832	·80
Other Foreign States - -	1,208,896	7·70	6,564	·05
Total - -	15,705,354	100·00	14,196,487	100·00

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Imports and exports at each port.

136. Seventy-eight per cent. of the imports were landed, and 89 per cent. of the exports were shipped at the port of Melbourne. About a fifth of the imports entered the Colony at the ports on the Murray River, but only about a fortieth of the exports were sent away therefrom. The chief of these is Echuca, at which 13 per cent. of the total imports were landed. The only important port of shipment in Victoria, except Melbourne, is Geelong, from which in 1876 7¾ per cent. of the total exports were sent away. The following table gives the names of the various ports, and the value of the goods imported and exported at each during the year:—

Imports and Exports at each Port, 1876.

Ports.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Melbourne - - -	12,235,235	77·90	12,686,345	89·36
Geelong - - -	199,077	1·27	1,099,401	7·75
Portland - - -	4,078	·03	22,776	·16
Port Fairy - - -	2,738	·02	12,407	·09
Port Albert - - -	1,213	·01	3	—
Warrnambool - -	25,729	·16	28,313	·20
Cowana - - -	1,700	·01	3,174	·02
Echuca - - -	2,069,723	13·18	175,088	1·23
Narunga - - -	21,394	·14	1,988	·01
Swan Hill - - -	86,850	·55	10,388	·07
Tocumwall - - -	53,333	·34	5,335	·04
Wahgunyah - - -	321,706	2·05	40,311	·28
Wodonga - - -	518,159	3·30	107,427	·76
Howlong - - -	14,904	·09	3,531	·03
At Stations - - -	149,515	·95	—	—
Total - -	15,705,354	100·00	14,196,487	100·00

Imports of principal articles.

137. The values of 60 of the principal articles imported in 1876 are given as follow:—

Imports of Principal Articles, 1876.

	£
Apparel and slops - - - -	340,404
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks) -	161,226
Beer, cider, and perry - - -	158,167
Books - - - - -	155,525
Boots and shoes - - - -	200,040
Butter and cheese - - - -	2,022
Candles - - - - -	28,435
Carpeting and druggeting - - -	54,771
Coals - - - - -	277,531
Coffee - - - - -	73,322
Cottons - - - - -	648,697

	£
Cutlery	52,820
Drugs and chemicals	65,608
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware	85,978
Fancy goods	40,200
Fish	111,296
Flour and biscuit	8,282
Fruit (including currants and raisins)	146,836
Furniture and upholstery	54,311
Glass and glassware	93,793
Gloves	62,925
Gold (exclusive of specie)	553,821
Grain, oats	138,499
„ wheat	87,725
„ other (including rice)	370,974
Haberdashery	203,161
Hardware and ironmongery	86,257
Hats, caps, and bonnets	129,866
Hides, skins, and pelts	100,917
Hops	82,793
Hosiery	135,243
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, &c.)	513,351
Jewellery	43,233
Leather, leatherware, and leathern cloth	120,350
Linen piece goods	46,639
Live stock	1,203,650
Machinery	93,234
Matches and vestas	55,719
Meats, fresh, preserved, and salted	13,001
Millinery	16,239
Musical instruments	70,734
Nails and screws	58,462
Oilmen's stores	17,272
Oil of all kinds	148,683
Opium	104,561
Paints and colours	37,259
Paper (including paper bags)	168,430
Silks	258,454
Specie	14,110
Spirits	507,341
Stationery	58,292
Sugar and molasses	1,086,251
Tea	672,883
Timber	324,189
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	291,066
Tools and utensils	57,686
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	62,638
Wine	179,167
Wool	2,179,184
Woollens and woollen piece goods	789,183

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Exports of principal articles.

138. The exports of 39 of the principal articles are in like manner subjoined:—

Exports of Principal Articles, 1876.

	£
Antimony, ore, regulus, &c.	41,733
Apparel and slops	205,837
Bark	60,386
Bones and bonedust	16,521
Books	42,611
Boots and shoes	82,496
Butter and cheese	54,113
Candles	62,161
Coffee	30,884
Flour and biscuit	40,064
Gold (exclusive of specie)	2,103,591
Grain, oats	26,069
„ wheat	478
„ other (including rice)	72,893
Hardware and ironmongery (including galvanized ironware)	46,556
Hay and chaff	56,498
Hides	2,996
Horns and hoofs	3,733
Leather and leatherware	199,592
Live stock	1,203,650
Machinery	75,692
Meats, preserved	166,570
„ salted	7,390
Oil of all kinds	78,760
Potatoes	65,242
Skins and pelts	56,056
Soap	6,951
Specie, gold	1,587,104
„ silver	7,239
Spirits	136,681
Stationery	49,032
Sugar	244,792
Tallow	174,507
Tea	251,116
Tin, tin ore, and black sand	7,392
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	212,874
Wine	68,576
Wool	6,413,754
Woollens and woollen piece goods	98,611

Customs revenue.

139. The customs revenue in 1876 exceeded that in 1875 by 39,104*l.* The following are the figures for the two years :—

Customs Revenue, 1875 *and* 1876.

Head of Receipt.	Year ended 31st December	
	1875.	1876.
	£	£
Import duties - - - -	1,583,552	1,629,776
Wharfage and harbour rates - - -	108,032	103,439
Duties on spirits distilled in Victoria - -	32,726	34,223
Ports and harbours - - - -	22,171	20,042
Fees - - - - - -	7,068	7,133
Fines and forfeitures - - -	1,511	218
Miscellaneous - - - -	9,149	8,482
Total - - -	1,764,209	1,803,313

Vessels inwards and outwards.

140. In 1876 the number of vessels entering and leaving Victorian ports was less than in 1875, 1873, or 1872, but slightly greater than in 1874. The aggregate tonnage of such vessels was slightly less than in 1875, but greater than in any of the other three years named. The crews of such vessels exceeded in number those in any of the four previous years. The following are the figures for the five years referred to ; the number, tonnage, and crews of the vessels inwards being distinguished from those of the vessels outwards :—

Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1872 *to* 1876.

Year.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
1872 -	2,104	666,336	33,551	2,234	694,426	35,353
1873 -	2,187	756,103	36,307	2,226	762,912	36,216
1874 -	2,100	777,110	36,834	2,122	792,509	36,472
1875 -	2,171	840,386	38,681	2,223	833,499	38,454
1876	2,086	810,062	38,960	2,150	847,026	39,600

Nationality of vessels.

141. Of the vessels inwards and outwards during 1876, 82 per cent., embracing 60 per cent. of the tonnage, were colonial ; 14 per cent., embracing 34 per cent. of the tonnage, were British ; and 4 per cent., embracing 6 per cent. of the tonnage, were foreign. Of the crews entering and leaving Victorian ports in 1876, 68 per cent. were attached to colonial, 29 per cent. to British, and 3 per cent. to foreign vessels. The following are the figures from which these proportions have been derived :—

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Nationality of Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1876.

Nationality.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Colonial - -	1,722	490,339	26,399	1,752	503,726	27,000
British - -	277	269,538	11,421	312	293,757	11,509
Foreign - -	87	50,185	1,140	86	49,543	1,091
Total -	2,086	810,062	38,960	2,150	847,026	39,600

Foreign vessels.

142. The following are the nationalities of the fareign vessels, the numbers entered and cleared of each nationality being shown. In 1876, as in the two previous years, the greatest number of foreign vessels visiting Victorian ports have been American, the next French, and the next German :—

Foreign Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1876.

Country.	Vessels entered.	Vessels cleared.
United States - - -	37	36
France - - - -	28	26
Germany - - -	8	9
Norway - - -	7	6
Sweden - - -	4	6
Denmark - - -	2	3
Holland - - -	1	—
Total - -	87	86

Vessels built and registered.

143. The vessels built and registered in Victoria during 1876 were as follow. It will be noticed that the vessels built were all small, their average size being only 44 tons. The vessels registered were also many of them small, the average size of the whole being no more than 202 tons :—

Vessels Built and Registered, 1876.

Vessels built.			Vessels registered.			
Description.	Number.	Tons.	Description.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Barge - -	1	80	Barge -	1	80	4
Cutter -	1	16	Barques -	5	2,228	51
Ketches -	3	78	Barquantine -	1	192	7
Schooners -	8	483	Brig - -	1	239	10
Steamers -	10	356	Brigantine -	1	108	4
			Cutter -	1	16	2
			Ketches -	3	78	6
			Schooners -	11	692	50
			Ships - -	2	2,503	59
			Steamers -	16	2,348	194
Total -	23	1,013	Total -	42	8,484	387

Postal returns.

144. A satisfactory increase in the business of the Post Office took place during 1876, as is shown by the following figures :—

Postage, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Total.
1875 -	855	17,134,101	7,552,912	1,528,493	26,215,506
1876 -	886	18,963,503	9,010,147	1,909,391	29,883,041
Increase -	31	1,829,402	1,457,235	380,898	3,667,535

Post cards.

145. Post cards were introduced on the 1st April 1876, at which date the Post Office Amendment Act, 1876 (39 Vict. No. 528) came into operation. From that period to the end of the year, 695,761 post cards, of the value, at 1*d.* each, of 2,899*l.*, were issued to the public.

Electric telegraphs.

146. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 180 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and by means of them with Queensland and New Zealand. They are also connected with the lines of South Australia, and by their means with the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America. They are likewise united with a submarine cable to Tasmania. The lines were extended during the year by 114 miles, and 235 miles of wire were added to that previously existing. The increase of business during the year is shown in the following table :—

Electric Telegraphs, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of miles of		Number of Telegrams.			Amount Received.
		Line (poles).	Wire.	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.	
							£
1875 -	164	2,629	4,510	623,514	109,355	732,869	46,995
1876 -	180	2,743	4,745	682,684	119,262	801,946	52,468
Increas e -	16	114	235	59,170	9,907	69,077	5,473

Post Office, revenue and expenditure.

147. The electric telegraphs being incorporated with the Post Office, the accounts of the two departments are kept together. It will be observed that, whilst an increase of 14,000*l.* has taken place in the income of the joint department, the expenditure in 1876, as compared with that in 1875, shows a diminution of 1,200*l.* :—

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Post Office.—Revenue and Expenditure, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Post Office, including Electric Telegraphs.	
	Income.	Expenditure.*
	£	£
1875 - - -	206,388	291,945
1876 - - -	220,344	290,740
Increase - -	13,956	—
Decrease - -	—	1,205

Railways opened.

148. At the end of 1876, 719¼ miles of railway were open in Victoria, of which 702¼—viz., 163·3 miles of double and 538·95 miles of single line—belonged to the State, and 17—viz., 9¾ miles of double and 7¼ miles of single line—were the property of the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company. All the lines are constructed upon a gauge of 5 ft. 3 in., which is also the national gauge of South Australia, but not of New South Wales, in which colony a 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge has been adopted. The private line of railway, however, between Moama and Deniliquin, in New South Wales, which is connected with the Victorian line from Sandhurst to Echuca, has been constructed upon a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge. The following figures show the names, lengths, and cost of construction of the different lines, and the distance travelled on Government and on private lines during 1876:—

Railways.—Length, Cost, and Distance travelled, 1876.

Name of Line.	Length open on 31st December 1876.	Cost of Construction.		Distance travelled in the Year.
		Total.	Average per Mile.	
GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.	Miles.	£	£	Miles.
Murray - - - -	156¼	5,417,885	34,674	
Williamstown - - -	6	386,538	64,423	
Ballarat - - - -	93½	2,704,304	28,923	
North-eastern - - -	187	1,607,261	8,595	
Ballarat and Ararat - - -	57	301,783	5,294	
Castlemaine and Dunolly - -	47½	276,435	5,820	2,399,748
Ballarat and Maryborough - -	42½	248,698	5,852	
Ararat and Stawell - - -	18¾	104,435	5,570	
Wangaratta and Beechworth -	23	145,605	6,331	
Sandhurst and Inglewood - -	30	139,338	4,645	
Maryborough and Avoca - -	15	50,413	3,361	
Geelong and Colac - - -	25¾	175,100	6,800	
Total Government Railways -	702¼	11,557,795†	16,458	

* Exclusive of the cost of steam postal communication with Great Britain.

† In addition to this total, the cost of preliminary surveys, sheds, workshops, machinery, charges on plant, &c., amounted to 481,695*l.*, and the cost of rolling stock, &c., amounted to 1,050,223*l.*, making in all 13,089,713*l.*

Name of Line.	Length open on 31st December 1876.	Cost of Construction.		Distance travelled in the Year.
		Total.	Average per Mile.	
PRIVATE RAILWAYS.	Miles.	£	£	Miles.
Melbourne and St. Kilda	3¾			
Melbourne and Sandridge	2⅓			
Melbourne and Windsor	3½	866,363	50,963	472,323
Windsor and Brighton	5¼			
Richmond and Hawthorn	2			
Total Government and Private lines	719¼	12,424,158	17,274	2,872,071

149. At the end of 1876 further lines were in course of construction, of which the proposed total length is 259¼ miles, which added to the length of the completed lines, makes a grand total of 961½ miles. Railways in progress.

150. The passenger rates per mile were as follow in the same year. It appears by the figures that the rates are somewhat higher on Government than on private lines :— Passenger rates.

Passenger Rates (*Single*) *per Mile*, 1876.

	d.
First class.—Government lines	2
„ Private lines	1½
Second class.—Government lines	1⅓
„ Private lines	1⅛

151. The following is a statement of the number of miles open and the number travelled on Government lines and on private ones during 1875 and 1876. As regards the Government lines, it must be borne in mind that in both years only a portion of the extent set down as open was so during the whole year :— Miles opened and travelled.

Railways.—Miles open and travelled, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Government Lines.		Private Lines.		Total.	
	Extent open.	Distance travelled.	Extent open.	Distance travelled.	Extent open.	Distance travelled.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
1875	586	2,051,710	17	451,128	603	2,502,838
1876	702¼	2,399,748	17	472,323	719¼	2,872,071
Increase	116¼	348,038	—	21,195	116¼	369,233

152. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in Melbourne in 1876. The rates of wages in country districts are generally somewhat higher than those in Wages.

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the metropolis. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours :—

Wages in Melbourne, 1876.

Description of Labour.	1876.
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.	
Farm labourers - - - per week, with rations	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - - „ „ -	18*s.* to 22*s.*
Reapers - - - - per acre „ -	12*s.* to 15*s.*
Mowers - - - - „ „ -	4*s.* to 7*s.*
Threshers - - - - per bushel „ -	6*d.* to 1*s.*
PASTORAL LABOUR.	
Shepherds - - - - per annum, with rations	35*l.* to 52*l.*
Stockkeepers - - - „ „ -	40*l.* to 65*l.*
Hutkeepers - - - „ „ -	25*l.* to 40*l.*
Generally useful men on stations - per week „ -	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheepwashers - - - „ „ -	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Shearers - - - - per 100 sheep sheared, with rations.	11*s.* to 18*s.*
ARTIZAN LABOUR.	
Masons - - - - per day, without rations	10*s.* to 12*s.*
Plasterers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Bricklayers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Carpenters - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Blacksmiths - - - „ „ -	10*s.* to 13*s.*
SERVANTS—MALES AND MARRIED COUPLES.	
Married couples, without family - - per annum, with board and lodging	50*l.* to 80*l.*
Married couples, with family - - „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - - „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 52*l.*
Grooms - - „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 52*l.*
Gardeners - - per week „ „ -	20*s.* to 40*s.*
SERVANTS—FEMALES.	
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	30*l.* to 50*l.*
Laundresses - - „ „ „ -	30*l.* to 40*l.*
General servants - „ „ „ -	26*l.* to 36*l.*
Housemaids - - „ „ „ -	30*l.* to 36*l.*
Nursemaids - - „ „ „ -	25*l.* to 35*l.*
MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR.	
General labourers - - per day, without rations -	6*s.* to 7*s.*
Stone-breakers - - per cubic yard, without rations	1*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.*
Seamen - - - per month, with rations -	5*l.* to 6*l.*
Miners - - - per week, without rations -	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*

Prices.

153. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follow in the same year. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, wine,

coal, &c., is naturally higher, and that of agricultural and grazing produce, firewood, &c., naturally lower than in Melbourne:—

Prices in Melbourne, 1876.

Articles.	1876.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.	
Wheat - - per bushel	4*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* 9*d.*
Barley - - „	2*s.* 10*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*
Oats - - „	2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Maize - - „	4*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* 4*d.*
Bran - - „	1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
Hay - - per ton	4*l.* to 8*l.*
Flour, first quality „	11*l.* 10*s.* to 14*l.*
Bread - - per 4 lb. loaf	7*d.*
GRAZING PRODUCE.	
Horses—	
Draught - each	14*l.* to 48*l.*
Saddle and harness - „	5*l.* to 60*l.*
Cattle—	
Fat - - „	5*l.* 10*s.* to 19*l.* 15*s.*
Milch cows - - „	3*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.* 10*s.*
Sheep, fat - „	3*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.*
Lambs, fat - „	2*s.* to 13*s.*
Butchers' meat—	
Beef, retail - per lb.	4*d.* to 9*d.*
Mutton „ - „	1½*d.* to 6*d.*
Veal „ - „	5*d.* to 6*d.*
Pork „ - „	7*d.* to 9*d.*
Lamb „ - per qrtr.	2*s.* to 3*s.*
DAIRY PRODUCE.	
Butter—	
Colonial, retail per lb.	10*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*
Imported salt, wholesale - „	10*d.* to 1*s.*
Cheese—	
Colonial, retail „	8*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Imported, wholesale - „	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Milk - - per quart	4*d.* to 6*d.*
FARM YARD PRODUCE.	
Geese - - per couple	7*s.* to 10*s.*
Ducks - - „	3*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Fowls - - „	4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*
Rabbits - - „	1*s.* to 3*s.*
Pigeons - - „	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*
Turkeys - each	5*s.* to 15*s.*
Sucking pigs - „	10*s.* to 18*s.*
Bacon - - per lb.	10*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*

Articles.	1876.
Ham - - per lb.	1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Eggs - - per doz.	1*s.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*
GARDEN PRODUCE.	
Potatoes—	
Wholesale - per ton	3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*
Retail - - per lb.	½*d.* to 1*d.*
Onions, dried - per cwt.	3*s.* 9*d.* to 12*s.*
Carrots - - per doz. bunches	4*d.* to 9*d.*
Turnips - - „	4*d.* to 1*s.*
Radishes - - „	4*d.* to 9*d.*
Cabbages - - per doz.	6*d.* to 5*s.*
Cauliflowers - „	1*s.* to 5*s.*
Lettuces - - „	3*d.* to 1*s.*
Green peas - - per lb.	1*d.* to 4*d.*
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.	
Tea (duty paid) - per lb.	7*d.* to 2*s.* 7½*d.*
Coffee (in bond) - „	11½*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Sugar (duty paid) - per ton	30*l.* to 48*l.*
Rice - - - „	16*l.* to 24*l.*
Tobacco (in bond) per lb.	9*d.* to 3*s.*
Soap—	
Colonial - - per ton	20*l.* to 30*l.*
Candles—	
Tallow - - per lb.	4*d.* to 5¼*d.*
Sperm - - „	7*d.* to 11½*d.*
Salt - - - per ton	3*l.* 5*s.* to 5*l.*
Coals - - „	30*s.* to 36*s.*
Firewood - - „	13*s.*
WINES, SPIRITS, &c.	
Ale (duty paid) - per hhd.	7*l.* to 9*l.* 10*s.*
„ „ - per doz.	7*s.* to 11*s.*
Porter „ - per hhd.	5*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*
„ „ - per doz.	7*s.* to 11*s.*
Brandy (in bond) per gall.	3*s.* 3*d.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*
Rum „ - „	3*s.* to 6*s.* 9*d.*
Whiskey „ - „	4*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Hollands „ - „	2*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.*
Port wine (in bond) - - per pipe	16*l.* to 100*l.*
Port wine (duty paid) - - per doz.	24*s.* to 50*s.*
Sherry (in bond) - per butt	20*l.* to 130*l.*
„ (duty paid) per doz.	20*s.* to 85*s.*
Claret - - „	10*s.* to 80*s.*
Champagne - „	20*s.* to 86*s.*

154. The price of gold ranged in 1876 from 3*l.* to 4*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per oz. Its purity, and consequently its value, varies in different districts. In the last quarter of 1876 the lowest price quoted (3*l.* per oz.) was in the Beechworth district, but some gold in the same district was stated to have realised as much as 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per oz. The highest average was in the Ballarat district, in which the prices ranged from 3*l.* 17*s.* to 4*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The lowest average was in the Gippsland district, in which the prices ranged from 3*l.* 8*s.* to 4*l.* Price of gold.

155. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, either by transfer, inheritance, or other means, may receive a title thereto direct from the Crown, was first introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present Transfer of Land Statute.

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period. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system has come at once under it provisions, and land alienated prior to its inauguration can be brought under them provided a clear title can be produced, or a title containing only a slight imperfection. In the latter case the title is given subject to such imperfection, which is noted on the deed.

Transactions under the Statute.

156. The following is a statement of the transactions which took place under the Transfer of Land Statute in 1876.

Transfer of Land Statute, 1876.

Applications to bring land under the Act -	number	1,128
Extent of land included - - -	acres	44,339
Value of land included - - -		£1,018,626
Certificates of title issued - - -	number	10,045
Transfers, mortgages, leases, releases, surrenders, &c.	„	13,638
Registering proprietors - - -	„	30
Other transactions - - - -	„	13,769
Forms sold - - - - -	„	635
Fees received - - - - -		£22,150

Transactions in Equity.

157. The transactions in Equity in 1876 were as follow:—

Transactions in Equity, 1876.

	Number.
Suits by bill - - - - -	88
Petitions filed - - - - -	52
Other commissions - - -	8
Decrees issued - - - - -	37
Orders issued - - - -	140
Reports issued - - - - -	86
Writs of injunction issued - - - -	6
Conveyance settled by master - - -	1
Recognizances entered into - - -	9
Rolls filed - - - - -	44

Probate duties.

158. The amounts realized by the State from duties on estates of deceased persons during the six years ended with 1876 were as follow:—

Duties on Estates of Deceased Persons, 1871 *to* 1876.

	£		£
1871 -	17,069	1874 -	67,998
1872 -	37,643	1875 -	50,057
1873 -	39,026	1876 -	33,638

Divorce and matrimonial.

159. The following business was done under the head of divorce and matrimonial causes in 1875 and 1876. It will be observed that no decree for judicial separation took place in the latter year; also, that the decrees for dissolution of marriage in 1876 were 33 per cent. fewer than those in 1875.

Divorce and Matrimonial, 1875 and 1876.

—	1875.	1876.
Petitions for dissolution of marriage number	20	25
„ judicial separation - „	5	6
„ alimony - - „	8	7
Decrees dismissing petitions - „	2	1
„ for dissolution of marriage - „	12	8
„ for judicial separation - „	2	—
„ for alimony - - - - „	1	2

160. The insolvencies were fewer and the amount of both liabilities and assets was less in 1876 than in 1875, but the declared assets, as compared with the declared liabilities, showed a larger deficiency in the year under review than in the former one. Insolvencies.

Insolvencies, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1875 - -	773	641,390	389,330	252,060
1876 - -	712	551,814	280,962	270,852
Increase -	—	—	—	18,792
Decrease -	61	89,576	108,368	—

161. In the year 1876, the number of offences reported to the Victorian police was 30,008. In respect to 25,281 of these offences, arrests were made, but in the case of the remaining 4,727 no one had been apprehended up to the end of March 1877. Offences reported to police, 1876.

162. The following table contains a statement of the number of persons arrested and the manner in which they were dealt with by magistrates in 1876, and in each year of the two previous quinquenniads. According to the manner the returns are made up, a person arrested more than once during the year, or arrested at one time on several charges, is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge. Arrests, 1866, 1871, and 1876.

Persons arrested, 1866, 1871, *and* 1876.

—	1866.	1871.	1876.
Taken into custody - - -	24,811	22,800	25,281
Discharged by magistrates - -	8,117	6,950	7,750
Summarily convicted or held to bail -	15,654	15,069	16,851
Committed for trial - - -	1,040	781	680

163. More arrests, it will be observed, were made at the last period than at any of the others. This, however, does not prove Arrests in proportion to

that crime has increased; in fact, in proportion to the number of persons in the Colony, arrests were far more numerous at the first period, and slightly more numerous at the middle period, than they were at the last period. The estimated average population in 1866 was 634,077, that in 1871 was 738,725, and that in 1876 was 830,679. The arrests were therefore in the proportion of 1 to every 26 persons living at the first period, of 1 to every 32 persons living at the middle period, and of 1 to every 33 persons living at the third period.

Diminution of serious offences.

164. The diminution in the number of serious offences is shown by the decreasing number of commitments for trial at each successive period. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 24 arrests at the first period, of 1 to ever 29 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 37 arrests at the third period.

Males and females arrested.

165. The sexes of the persons arrested, and of those of them who were discharged by magistrates, were summarily dealt with, or were sent for trial, were as follow at the same three periods.

Males and Females, arrested 1866, 1871, *and* 1876.

	1866.		1871.		1876.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Taken into custody -	19,866	4,945	18,576	4,224	19,528	5,753
Discharged by magistrates.	6,509	1,608	5,613	1,337	5,887	1,863
Summarily convicted or held to bail.	12,410	3,244	12,258	2,811	13,064	3,787
Committed for trial -	947	93	705	76	577	103

Causes of arrest.

166. The following is a condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made, together with the numbers arrested for each offence, in the same three years.

Causes of Arrest, 1866, 1871, *and* 1876.

Offence.	1866.	1871.	1876.
Murder and attempt at murder - - -	36	28	17
Manslaughter - - - - -	20	14	17
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	50	54	59
Assaults - - - - - -	1,238	1,398	1,425
Rape and indecent assaults on females - -	70	88	86
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	6	18	15
Other offences against the person - - -	88	130	125
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c. - -	262	224	136
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c. - -	272	154	170
Other offences against property - - -	4,654	3,454	3,458
Forgery and offences against the currency - -	110	82	98
Drunkenness - - - - - -	9,367	9,968	11,624
Other offences against good order - -	6,205	5,045	6,085
Offences relating to carrying out laws - -	562	672	374
Smuggling, and other offences against the revenue -	121	101	66
Offences against public welfare - - -	1,750	1,370	1,526
Total - - - - -	24,811	22,800	25,281

167. Apprehensions for murder and attempts at murder were fewer in 1876 than at either of the other periods, but arrests for manslaughter were more numerous in 1876 than at the second period, and arrests for shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm were more numerous in that year than at either of the other periods. Murder, manslaughter, &c.

168. Rape, indecent assaults, and unnatural offences at the middle period, were the grounds of the greatest number of arrests, and of the least number at the first period. Sexual offences.

169. Arrests for robbery with violence, burglary, &c. in 1871 outnumbered those in 1876 by upwards of 50 per cent., and in 1866 outnumbered those in 1876 by nearly 100 per cent. Robbery with violence, &c.

170. Many more arrests for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing took place at the first period than at either of the subsequent ones, but arrests for offences of this class were slightly more numerous at the last than at the middle period. Cattle stealing, &c.

171. Apprehensions for forgery and offences against the currency bore only a small proportion to the total number of apprehensions at any of the periods. They were highest at the first, and lowest at the middle period. Forgery, &c.

172. Arrests for drunkenness were more numerous in 1876 than in 1871, and more numerous in 1871 than in 1866. The steady increase in the number of apprehensions for this crime may perhaps not be altogether due to its greater prevalence, but partly owing to increased vigilance on the part of the police in apprehending drunken persons. The numbers arrested for this offence in 1876 exceeded those arrested for it in 1875 by only 83. Drunkenness.

173. Smuggling and offences against the revenue have never led to many arrests in Victoria, and notwithstanding the inducement which high import duties might be supposed to offer to smugglers, the numbers falling into the hands of the police are becoming steadily less. The arrests for all offences of this class, in which is included sly grog selling, amounted in 1876 to no more than 66, which is only about two-thirds of the number in 1871, and only about half the number in 1866. Offences against the revenue.

174. The results of the summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1876 were as follow:— Results of summary disposal.

Summary Disposal by Magistrates, 1876.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	8	—
„ 1 year and under 2 years	128	48
„ 6 months and under 1 year	221	161
„ 4 months	18	6
„ 3 months	697	389
„ 2 months and under 3 months	199	89
„ 1 month and under 2 months	712	363
„ 15 days and under 1 month	65	6
„ 8 days and under 15 days	524	260
„ 7 days and under	3,524	1,298
Fined	5,898	637

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Ordered to find bail	277	78
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	372	277
Otherwise dealt with	421	175
Total sentenced	13,064	3,787
Discharged	5,887	1,863
Total summarily disposed of	18,951	5,650

Whipping ordered by magistrates.

175. Corporal punishment may be ordered by magistrates in certain cases, under Statute 35 Vict. No. 399, sec. 33., but only one offender was sentenced by them to be whipped in 1876. This was a man between 30 and 40 years of age, who, in addition to a term of imprisonment, was ordered to receive two whippings of 25 lashes each.

Sentences in superior courts.

176. In addition to the 680 persons committed for trial in 1876, 88 were awaiting trial from the previous year. The total number of those for trial was thus 768; and of these 384 were convicted, 216 were acquitted, and 168 were not prosecuted for want of evidence, or had not been tried when the year terminated. The following were the sentences of those convicted in 1876:—

Sentences of Prisoners Tried and Convicted, 1876.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death	3	1
„ recorded	1	—
Hard labour for 15 years and upwards	1	—
„ 10 years and under 15 years	10	—
„ 7 years and under 10 years	1	—
„ 4 years and under 7 years	31	—
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years	115	8
„ 1 year and under 2 years	84	18
„ 6 months and under 1 year	47	7
„ 1 month and under 6 months	17	16
„ under one month	7	2
„ awaiting the pleasure of the Crown	1	1
Held to bail	5	—
Fined	8	—
Total sentenced	331	53
Acquitted or not prosecuted	322	62
Total for trial	653	115

Whipping ordered by superior courts.

177. Criminals convicted at the courts of assize and courts of general sessions may for certain offences, described in Acts 27 Vict. No. 253 and 35 Vict. 399, be sentenced to corporal punishment in addition to terms of imprisonment. Ten offenders were so sentenced in 1876, viz., 2 to be whipped twice, and 8 three times. The total number of lashes ordered was 742, or an average of 29 at each whipping. Of those who were sentenced

to one whipping, 1 was between 10 and 15, and the other between 30 and 40 years of age. Of those sentenced to 3 whippings, 1 was between 15 and 20; 3 were between 25 and 30; 3 were between 30 and 40; 1 was between 50 and 60; and 1 was upwards of 60 years of age. The last named was ordered only 12 lashes at each whipping.

Executions.

178. In 1876, 3 criminals were executed, of whom 2 were Irish, and 1 was a Swiss. Both the former professed to be members of the Church of England, and the latter to be a Roman Catholic. The crime of the two first was rape, that of the other one murder. Executions have taken place in Victoria in each year since its separation from New South Wales, except 1874. In the 12 years ended with 1876 the total number of executions was 41. Those executed were all males, and no native of Victoria is included in the list.

Gaols and penal establishments.

179. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds, ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The ordinary gaols are both houses of correction and debtors' prisons; the penal establishments are houses of correction only. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum.

Gaols and prisoners.

180. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1876, and the numbers transferred from one institution to another in the same year, will be found in the following table:—

Gaols and Penal Establishments, 1876.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.						Prisoners transferred from one Institution to another during the Year.		
		Total Number.			Average at One Time.					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols - - -	9	5,912	2,859	8,771	619	322	941	1,580	505	2,085
Police gaols - -	19	841	119	960	25	5	30	173	38	211
Penal establishments -	3	1,401	—	1,401	665	—	665	241	—	241
Total - -	31	8,154	2,978	11,132	1,309	327	1,636	1,994	543	2,537

Proportion of prisoners to population.

181. Estimating the mean population of the Colony during 1876 as 830,679, consisting of 451,134 males and 379,545 females, and comparing these figures with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person to every 508 persons living was constantly in prison during the year; or, distinguishing the sexes, that during the same period, 1 male to every 345 males living, and 1 female to every 1,161 females living, were constantly in detention.

Inmates of reformatories

182. The number of inmates of reformatories during 1876 was 320, viz., 232 males and 88 females. Of these, 124 were

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admitted, and 101 left during the year. Of the latter, 13 were discharged on remission, and 43 on expiration of sentence; 42 were sent to employment, 1 died, and 2, viz., 1 male and 1 female, absconded and were not retaken. Besides the last named, 4 males absconded and were retaken during the year.

Inquests.

183. The inquests held in 1876 numbered 1,569, as against 1,704 in 1875. In 836 instances the death was found to have resulted from natural causes; in 23 cases, from intemperance; in 635 cases, from violence; in 62 cases, from doubtful causes; and in 13 cases, a verdict of "still-born" was returned. Of the deaths set down to violence, the verdict in 482 cases was to the effect that the death had resulted from accident; in 2 cases, that it had resulted from homicide; in 97 cases, that it had resulted from suicide; in 3 cases, that it had resulted from execution; and in 51 cases, that the cause of the violent death was doubtful. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths is increasing. This is shown by the increasingly large proportion which verdicts of "death from natural causes" bear to the total number of verdicts given. In 1873 this proportion was 45 per cent.; in 1874, 47 per cent.; in 1875, 52 per cent. and in 1876, 53 per cent.

Fire inquests.

184. Fifteen fire inquests were held during 1876, as against 10 in 1875. Fire inquests are not held now as often as formerly, which is shown by the fact that in the three years ended with 1868 as many as 480 such inquiries were held, but only 235 in the succeeding eight years. This change has occurred, not because fires are less numerous than formerly, but chiefly owing to the circumstance that for some years past fire inquests have not been held except upon the payment of a fee of 5*l.* 5*s.* by or on behalf of some one applying to have the enquiry made, or in pursuance of instructions from the Crown Law Officers, which are issued only when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken; whereas formerly the question of the propriety of holding an inquest on any fire occurring within his district was decided by the coroner alone.

Abolition of State aid to religion.

185. It was prescribed in a measure passed by the Colonial Legislature, and duly assented to by Her Majesty, entitled "An "Act to provide for the Abolition of State Aid to Religion" (34 Vict. No. 391), that from and after the 31st day of December 1875 no moneys should be set apart for the advancement of the Christian religion in Victoria under the Constitution Act. In 1876, therefore, for the first time since the Victorian Constitution was proclaimed 20 years previously, no monetary assistance was given to religion by the State.

Churches and clergy.

186. The following are the numbers of registered clergy, of buildings used for public worship, of the persons such buildings could accommodate, of those usually attending divine service, and of the services performed in connexion with each religious denomination during the year 1876:—

Churches and Clergy, 1876.

Religious Denomination.	Number of Registered Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.			Number of Services during the Year.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.	Persons usually attending.	
Church of England -	135	424	64,640	38,494	26,036
Roman Catholics -	96	423	91,403	68,386	38,032
Presbyterians - -	157	602	73,535	63,220	32,158
Wesleyans - -	138	849	135,814	94,286	85,424
Independents - -	47	112	16,998	8,956	8,459
Baptists - -	47	68	12,615	9,070	10,738
Evangelical Lutherans	12	53	6,800	4,700	3,800
Welsh Calvinists -	2	8	1,650	1,100	1,005
Church of Christ -	11	36	7,250	3,500	4,300
Other Christians -	13	19	2,530	1,070	3,731
Jews - - -	6	7	1,410	430	1,464
Other sects - -	—	1	300	200	52
Total - -	664	2,602	414,945	293,412	215,199

187. As compared with the returns of 1875, the church buildings increased by 83, and the services performed by 8,316, but the clergy decreased by 5, the sittings by 6,432, and the persons usually attending by 2,850. Increase or decrease of churches, clergy, &c.

188. The following table shows the number of Sabbath schools attached to each religious sect, the number of teachers, and the number of scholars in 1876:— Sabbath schools.

Sabbath Schools, 1876.

Religious Denomination.	Number of Sabbath Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Scholars.
Church of England - -	251	2,156	19,654
Roman Catholics - -	221	1,073	17,892
Presbyterians - - -	316	2,356	26,456
Wesleyans - - -	492	5,062	34,305
Independents - - -	54	639	4,739
Baptists - - - -	67	400	4,606
Evangelical Lutherans - -	15	51	570
Welsh Calvinists - -	7	107	651
Church of Christ - -	16	152	1,210
Other Christians - -	8	34	336
Jews - - - -	4	12	315
Other sects - - -	1	17	59
Total - -	1,452	12,059	110,793

189. The totals in the above table show a slight increase as compared with similar totals for 1875. The Sabbath schools were Increase of Sabbath schools.

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more numerous by 22, the teachers by 4, and the scholars by 2,405, than those in that year.

Matriculated students.

190. The number of students who matriculated at the Melbourne University in 1876 was 73, as against 93 in the previous year. The matriculations in 1876 were fewer than in any year since 1869. From the opening of the University to the end of 1876 the total number of students who matriculated was 996.

Students attending lectures.

191. In 1876, as compared with 1875, a falling off of 22, and as compared with 1874, a falling off of 1, took place in the number of students attending lectures. The numbers in the year under review attending lectures in the different subjects taught at the University were as follow:—

Melbourne University Students, 1876.

Subject of Lectures.	Number of Students attending Lectures.		
	Matriculated.	Non-matriculated.	Total.
Arts - - - -	48	—	48
Laws - - - -	45	—	45
Engineering - - -	24	3	27
Medicine - - -	56	2	58
Total - -	173	5	178

Graduates.

192. The number of direct graduates in 1876 was 28, as against 29 in 1875 and 24 in 1874. The ad eundem graduates in the same year numbered 10, as against 5 in each of the two previous years. The following degrees have been taken at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1876, those conferred in the last-named year being distinguished:—

Melbourne University Graduates, 1855 *to* 1876.

Degrees.	Prior to 1876.			During 1876.			Total.		
	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.
Bachelor of Arts -	102	49	151	11	2	13	113	51	164
Master of Arts -	61	64	125	6	5	11	67	69	136
Bachelor of Medicine	26	6	32	9	—	9	35	6	41
Doctor of Medicine -	11	57	68	—	2	2	11	59	70
Bachelor of Laws -	38	5	43	2	—	2	40	5	45
Doctor of Laws -	1	10	11	—	1	1	1	11	12
Total - -	239	191	430	28	10	38	267	201	468

Public and private schools.

193. The present Education Act came into force on the 1st January 1873. The following figures show the growth of the school system since the year prior to that period:—

Public and Private Schools, 1872 *to* 1876.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars on the Rolls.
1872 - - -	1,936	4,257	160,743
1873 - - -	1,731	4,595	226,254
1874 - - -	1,721	5,224	238,592
1875 - - -	1,885	5,337	248,014
1876 - - -	2,143	5,418	260,407

194. By comparing the first and last lines of the table it appears that in 1876 there were upwards of 200 more schools, with about 1,160 more teachers, and nearly 100,000 more children on their rolls than there were in the year prior to that in which the present State school system was introduced. The following are the exact figures:— Increase of schools, &c.

Public and Private Schools.—Increase from 1872 *to* 1876.

Schools - - - -	207
Instructors - - - -	1,161
Scholars - - - -	99,664

195. The increase in 1876, as shown by the difference between the last two lines in the table, was as follows:— Increase of schools, &c. in 1876.

Public and Private Schools.—Increase in 1876.

Schools - - - -	258
Instructors - - - -	81
Scholars - - - -	12,393

196. The following table shows the sexes of the scholars in public and private schools during the last two years:— Sexes of scholars.

Public and Private Schools.—Sexes of Scholars, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Public Schools.		Private Schools.		Total.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1875 -	115,774	104,759	13,106	14,375	128,880	119,134
1876 -	122,350	109,210	13,455	15,392	135,805	124,602
Increase -	6,576	4,451	349	1,017	6,925	5,468

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Proportions of the sexes in schools.

197. Boys in public schools were slightly more numerous than girls in both years, but in private schools the reverse was the case. The proportions in 1876 were 92 girls to 100 boys in public and private schools combined, or 89 girls to 100 boys in public schools, and 114 girls to 100 boys in private schools.

Scholars, 1876.

198. The number of children receiving education in Victoria at the end of 1876 may be estimated as follows:—

Children at all Ages receiving Education, 1876.

Being educated—	
In State schools - - - -	194,018
In private schools - - - -	28,847
In industrial and reformatory schools -	1,191
At home (estimated) - - -	20,000
Total - - - -	244,056

Scholars at school age.

199. The age prescribed by the Education Act as that at which children shall attend school, unless there be some reasonable excuse for their not doing so, is from 6 to 14 years last birthday, both inclusive. Of the children just named it may be estimated that the following were at those ages:—

Children at School Age receiving Education, 1876.

Being educated—	
In State schools - - - -	152,147
In industrial and reformatory schools -	1,006
In private schools and at home (estimated)	38,323
Total - - - -	191,476

Scholars and others at school age.

200. Supposing the number at the school age living at the last census brought on by proportion to represent the children in the Colony at that age at the end of 1876, the number would be 196,047, and the following would be the numbers and per-centage of these receiving and not receiving education:—

Children at School Age receiving and not receiving Education, 1876.

—	Numbers.	Per-centage.
Being educated - - - -	191,476	97·67
Not being educated - - - -	4,571	2·33
Total at school age - -	196,047	100·00

201. By these figures it would appear that all but 2½ per cent. of the children at the school age were attending school at the end of 1876. It should, however, be borne in mind that the estimate of the total number of children at that age is based upon the assumption that they exist in the Colony, in the same proportion as they did when the census was taken, which is by no means certain, or even likely. Should there be more children, as is most probably the case, the proportion being educated would, of course, be smaller than that here given.

Proportion of scholars at school age.

202. The principal charitable institutions existing in Victoria, and the amount of accommodation they afford for inmates, are as follows :—

Accommodation of charities.

Charitable Institutions.—Amount of Accommodation.

Name of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Wards or Rooms.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet to each Inmate.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General hospitals - -	32	230	2,266,884	2,060	1,100
Lying-in Hospital - -	1	20	70,200	64	1,097
Blind Asylum - -	1	9	112,788	103	1,095
Deaf and Dumb Asylum -	1	4	70,312	72	977
Eye and Ear Hospital -	1	3	10,694	22	486
Children's Hospital - -	1	4	32,672	40	817
Benevolent asylums - -	5	116	814,387	1,168	697
Immigrants' Home - -	1	42	383,882	430	893
Orphan asylums - -	7	69	723,427	1,163	622
Industrial and reformatory schools - - -	10	52	897,825	1,715	524
Hospitals for the insane -	4	72	2,904,568	2,613	1,112
Female refuges - -	4	51	119,860	205	585
Total - -	68	672	8,407,499	9,655	870

203. It is stated by authority that not less than 600 cubic feet in a well ventilated sleeping room inhabited by healthy persons, and from 1,500 to 2,000 feet in the wards of a hospital, should be allowed for each individual. It will be observed by the figures in the last column of the foregoing table, that the amount of space for inmates of many of the institutions, especially the hospitals, does not come up to the required standard. It will however, be remembered that few, if any of the institutions are always crowded, and some are probably never occupied to the full extent of their capacity.

Cubic space in wards.

204. The following table shows the total and average number of inmates in the same institutions during the year; also the number of deaths, and the proportion of deaths to inmates. It will be noticed that no deaths occurred in the Blind or Deaf and Dumb Asylum, or in the Eye and Ear Hospital.

Inmates and deaths in charities.

VICTORIA.

Charitable Institutions.—Inmates and Deaths, 1876.

Name of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Average at one Time.		
				per cent.
General hospitals - -	14,857	1,536·2	1,544	10·39
Lying-in-Hospital - -	660	41·0	13	1·97
Blind Asylum - -	113	102·5	—	—
Deaf and Dumb Asylum -	88	75·0	—	—
Eye and Ear Hospital -	192	21·0	—	—
Children's Hospital - -	118	13·0	17	14·41
Benevolent asylums - -	1,647	1,118·5	152	9·23
Immigrants' Home - -	8,915	470·9	67	·75
Orphan asylums - -	1,227	1,006·4	22	1·79
Industrial and reformatory schools - - -	2,391	1,352·5	27	1·13
Hospitals for the insane -	3,268	2,575·0	185	5·66
Female refuges - -	336	479·5	1	·30
Total - -	33,812	8,491·5	2,028	6·00

Receipts and expenditure.

205. By the following table, which shows the receipts and expenditure of the same institutions, it will be observed that the amounts received from Government are, in the aggregate, about equal to three fourths of the total revenue of the institutions. This is about the same proportion of Government aid as that shown in the returns of the two previous years.

Charitable Institutions.—Receipts and Expenditure, 1876.

Name of Institution.	Receipts.				Expenditure.
	From Government.	From Private Contributions.	From other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
General hospitals - -	68,163	29,807	10,787	108,757	102,072
Lying-in Hospital - -	1,912	1,206	1,213	4,331	3,746
Blind Asylum - -	2,200	4,144	—	6,344	4,937
Deaf and Dumb Asylum -	2,200	2,018	—	4,218	3,483
Eye and Ear Hospital -	600	799	—	1,399	1,233
Children's Hospital - -	500	802	—	1,302	1,317
Benevolent asylums -	23,930	6,713	4,653	35,296	32,853
Immigrants' Home - -	5,325	522	1,646	7,493	7,692
Orphan asylums - -	13,956	5,576	722	20,254	17,953
Industrial and reformatory schools - - -	27,251	—	3,615	30,866	28,724
Hospitals for the insane -	87,992	—	4,199	92,191	92,191
Female refuges - -	1,395	—	4,977	6,372	6,684
Total - -	235,424	51,587	31,812	318,823	302,885

206. The average expenditure in proportion to the number of individuals relieved, varies in the different kinds of institutions. In the hospitals, where the inmates only remain for short periods, and in the immigrants' Home, where they sometimes remain for only one night, the cost of maintenance per head is naturally much less than in other institutions in which the same individuals are kept throughout the year. It will be observed by means of the following table, that for the whole of the institutions, the average expenditure per inmate was about 9*l.*, and that in the different institutions it ranged from 17*s.* 3*d.* in the Immigrants' Home to 39*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* and 43*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* in the Deaf and Dumb Institution, and the Asylum and School for the Blind respectively:—

Expenditure per inmate.

Charitable Institutions.—Average Cost of each Inmate, 1876.

Name of Institution.	Total Number of Inmates.	Total Expenditure.	Average Cost of each Inmate.
		£	£ s. d.
General hospitals - - -	14,857	102,072	6 17 $4\frac{3}{4}$
Lying-in Hospital - - -	660	3,746	5 13 $6\frac{1}{4}$
Blind Asylum - - - -	113	4,937	43 13 $9\frac{3}{4}$
Deaf and Dumb Asylum - -	88	3,483	39 11 7
Eye and Ear Hospital - - -	192	1,233	6 8 $5\frac{1}{4}$
Children's Hospital - - -	118	1,317	11 3 $2\frac{3}{4}$
Benevolent asylums - - -	1,647	32,853	19 18 $11\frac{1}{4}$
Immigrants' Home - - -	8,915	7,692	0 17 3
Orphan asylums - - -	1,227	17,955	14 12 $7\frac{1}{2}$
Industrial and reformatory schools -	2,391	28,724	12 0 $3\frac{1}{4}$
Hospitals for the insane - -	3,268	92,191	28 4 $2\frac{1}{2}$
Female refuges - - -	336	6,684	19 17 $10\frac{1}{4}$
Total - - -	33,812	302,885	8 19 2

207. The children received into the industrial schools in 1876, added to those in the institutions when the year commenced numbered 2,071, viz., 1,155 boys and 916 girls. They were placed in the schools in the first instance for the following reasons :—

Children in industrial schools.

——	Boys.	Girls.
Found begging or receiving alms, or arrested as neglected children - - - - - - -	913	706
Living in a brothel or with bad characters - - -	66	57
Having committed a punishable offence - - -	51	5
Unable to be controlled by parents - - -	47	16
Absconded in a former year and re-taken in 1876 - -	1	—
On other grounds - - - - - -	77	132
Total - - - -	1,155	916

208. The Melbourne Free Hospital for sick children had one indoor patient at the beginning of the year. During the year,

Children's Hospital.

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117 patients were admitted, and 25 remained at its close. Seventeen deaths occurred in the institution during the year.

Eye and Ear Hospital.

209. The Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital received 103 in-patients during the year, making, with 12 in the institution at its commencement, a total of 115 treated. The patients discharged numbered 104, of whom 75 were stated to be cured or relieved, and 25 to be incurable. The committee report that 182 capital operations were performed during the year, which were in the majority of cases successful, and not one death occurred.

Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

210. The Deaf and Dumb Institution commenced the year with 76 pupils. During its progress 12 were admitted and 14 discharged, and at its end 74 remained in the institution. The inspector reports that the children take an interest in their lessons, and some of the elder ones work with accuracy sums in the compound rules and reduction, also that the writing generally exhibits care. The committee state that, in the industrial department, five boys are learning bootmaking, 10 tailoring, and 22 gardening while all the girls are regularly employed either in household duties or needlework.

Blind Asylum.

211. The number received into the Victorian Institution and School for the Blind during 1876 was five, making with the previous inmates, a total of 67; eight were discharged during the year, and 59 remained at its close. During the year a supply of lesson books and apparatus for instructing the blind was received from England. The committee report good progress in the industrial department, there being 21 employed in the basket shop, and 19 in the brush shop, nine of the latter being females; several were also employed in netmaking and in matmaking, but the want of a competent instructor in the latter industry was much felt. The amounts realised by the sale of manufactures during the year were the following:—623*l.* for basketware, 191*l.* for brushware 22*l.* for mats, and 63*l.* for woolwork, netting, and knitting, making a total of 899*l.* The sum of 827*l.* was also obtained from the proceeds of concerts given by the pupils in different parts of the Colony.

Victorian Year Book.

212. For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book* 1876–7."

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist of Victoria.

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* This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from John Ferres, Government printer, Melbourne, or George Robertson, 17 Warwick Square, London.

TASMANIA.

No. 23.

MR. E. C. NOWELL'S REPORT upon the GENERAL STATISTIC of TASMANIA for the year 1876.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
July 31, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, appended to this Report, the general statistics of this Colony for the year 1876.

The "Blue Book" forms Part I. In regard to this only one remark need be made, namely, that for the sake of convenience in printing, and also to promote uniformity of system among the Colonies, the returns of persons in the service of the Government has been transferred from the end of the volume to the commencement.

II.—*Population.*

Population.

In the interim Report, furnished in April last, the population on 31st December 1876 was estimated at 105,280; and I then stated that, being still in communication with the Customs' officers on the north-west coast on the subject, it was possible that the returns of population and immigration might have to be revised. The investigation being completed, it was found that the return of immigration to the sub-ports was in a great measure unreliable, in consequence of the absence of a proper understanding between the different Customs' officers; and the number of passengers arriving by steamer had to be ascertained, as far as the information went, from the Melbourne "Argus" and "Australasian," the deficiencies being supplied by calculation from known data. Upon this basis it was found that the population on the date mentioned was 105,484, of whom 55,633 were males, and 49,851 females; the mean, or number at the middle of the year, which is now used in all statistical calculations, being 104,573. The increase at the end of the year is computed to have been 1,821, 1,419 being contributed by excess of births over deaths, and 402 by excess of arrivals over departures.

For many years the sea-borne passenger traffice has resulted in a balance against the Colony; but in my Report for 1873 I stated that the loss by emigration was gradually diminishing. It is satisfactory to find that the turning point has now been reached; and henceforth we may expect an annual addition to our numbers by immigration.

Immigration, &c.

In 1876, 8,571 persons arrived in the Colony and 8,169 left it. From Victoria we obtained 7,773 persons, and returned to it 7,247, thus retaining 526; to New South Wales we sent 669, receiving back 603, leaving a balance of 66 against us; to Queensland we parted with 11, and received none; South Australia had

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the same number both ways, namely, 14; New Zealand absorbed 215 of our population, giving us in exchange only 159, leaving a balance of these living exports of 56; while the United Kingdom gave us 22, and was contented to accept in return 13, leaving us with a gain of 9.

Bounty immigration.

In 1876, 48 persons were introduced under what is known as the "bounty system," under the auspices of the Board of Immigration, only 16 having been thus introduced in 1875.

Naturalisation.

Six foreigners were naturalised in the former year, being five more than in the latter.

III.—*Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.*

Imports.

The value of the imports during the last year amounted to 1,133,003*l.*, being at the rate of 10*l.* 16*s.* 8¼*d.* per head of the mean population.

In the last four years the imports stand as follows:

	£		£
1873 -	- 1,107,167	1875 -	- 1,185,942
1874 -	- 1,257,785	1876 -	- 1,133,003

Or, deducting the value of railway material,—

	£		£
1873 -	- 1,081,591	1875 -	- 1,129,430
1874 -	- 1,142,992	1876 -	- 1,107,154

Taking the latter figures there was, therefore, a decrease in 1876, as compared with 1875, of 22,276*l.*, and as compared with 1874, of 35,838*l.*,; but an increase on the value in 1873 of 25,563*l.*

Of the causes which brought about the large increases in imports of 1873 and 1874, and the subsequent decreases, two are doubtless to be found in the construction of the Main Line Railway and the price of wool. The large number of men employed on the railway works while in progress considerably augmented the consumption of imported articles; and as they were discharged and left the Colony, the demand for such articles diminished in proportion. The decline in the price of wool must also have seriously affected the purchasing power of the community. We shall see presently that, notwithstanding this decrease in imports, there has been an increase in the exports.

Comparing in detail the quantities of goods imported on which duty was paid in 1876 and 1875, we find that the principal differences in the former year were in the following articles:—

—		Increase.	Decrease.
Food: Beef, pork, and mutton	- lbs.	—	46,904
Butter - - -	- lbs.	—	27,644
Sheep and cattle	- - No.	—	11,323
Fish, dried - -	- lbs.	—	5,783
Fruits, dried -	- lbs.	61,229	—
Flour - - -	- lbs.	—	8,800
Wheat - - -	- lbs.	—	337,283
Barley - - -	- lbs.	—	54,800

—		Increase.	Decrease.
Oatmeal	lbs.	—	13,468
Pearl barley	lbs.	8,986	—
Rice	lbs.	—	41,640
Peas, split	lbs.	6,449	—
Sago	lbs.	—	3,183
Mustard	lbs.	—	8,574
Pepper	lbs.	10,967	—
Salt and saltpetre	lbs.	—	2,051
Nuts and walnuts	lbs.	4,279	—
Vinegar	galls.	—	3,548
Hops	lbs.	—	3,471
Sugar	cwts.	5,518	—
Tea	lbs.	43,062	—
Coffee	lbs.	—	10,942
Chicory	lbs.	—	29,977
Cocoa	lbs.	3,106	—
Spirits	galls.	4,660	—
Malt Liquors	galls.	—	2,371
Wine	galls.	2,387	—
Drapery	cubic feet	—	2,966
Woollens:			
Blankets and rugs	cubic feet	—	491
Carpets	cubic feet	—	719
Other woollen goods	cubic feet	—	2,104
Candles	lbs.	19,624	—
Tallow	lbs.	84,671	—
Coals and coke	tons.	8,588	—
Earthen and glass ware	cubic feet	5,261	—
Glass	supl. feet	7,620	—
Oils	galls.	—	8,044
Paints and white lead	lbs.	3,056	—
Seeds	lbs.	8,890	—
Shot	lbs.	—	9,798
Soap	lbs.	—	8,216
Starch	lbs.	—	25,732
Soda Crystals	lbs.	—	64,739
Sulphur	lbs.	100,373	—
Timber, dressed	supl. feet	—	7,473
Tobacco and cigars	lbs.	6,236	—
Twine	lbs.	—	13,771
Bagging	yds.	17,823	—
Sacks and bags:			
Corn sacks	No	26,614	—
Gunny bags	No..	—	17,007
Woolpacks	No	6,090	—

Below are shown the values of imports in 1875 and 1876 of the most important of the articles not subject to duty, with the increases or decreases in 1876.

—	1875.	1876.	More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£
Coin, gold	1,500	20,545	19,045	—
Hides and skins, raw	10,512	10,102	—	410
Iron and tin	28,056	33,023	4,967	—
Machinery and mills	41,591	19,605	—	21,986
Manure	16,518	11,496	—	5,022
Stationery and printed books	17,631	18,178	547	—
Railway material	56,512	25,849	—	30,663
Government stores	12,480	7,965	4,515	—

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Exports.

The value of the exports in 1876 is returned as 1,130,983*l.*, being 45,007*l.* in excess of that of 1875. It has not been so great in any other of the last 10 years. Since 1870, with the exception of 1873, there has been a continuous increase, as follows:—

	£		£
In 1871 - -	91,929	In 1874 - -	31,769
In 1872 - -	170,025	In 1875 - -	160,651
In 1873 (decrease)	17,107	In 1876 - -	45,007

The rate per head of exports in 1876 was 10*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.* against 10*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.* in 1875.

Of the total exports in 1876, the value of British and Foreign produce amounted to no more than 13, 399*l.*, the rest (1,117,584*l.*) being the produce or manufactures of this Colony.

The differences in the value of goods exported to the different countries in 1876 as compared with the preceding year were as follows:—

—	More.	Less.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	38,993	—
Victoria - - - - -	17,716	—
New South Wales - - - -	16,072	—
New Zealand - - - -	—	26,563
Queensland - - - - -	—	953
South Australia - - - -	—	2,947
Foreign States - - - -	2,689	—

There were increases in the quantity of bark exported, of butter and cheese, of skins (rabbit), of oatmeal, and of oil. On gold the increase was 6,787¾ ozs., the excess itself being nearly twice the total export of 1875; on jam, 521,812 lbs.; on hops, 80,961 lbs.; on tin (ore), 544 tons (none in 1875), smelted, 705¾ tons; and on wool, 649,269 lbs. The quantity of wool was never so large before. On the value of bran and pollard there was an increase of 1,957*l.*

The exports of flour, grain, hides, skins, and leather (except rabbit skins), live stock, timber, and vegetables were less than in 1875, the decreases being as follows:—

On flour, tons - -	1,008
Green fruit, bushels - -	23,872
Grain, bushels, viz:—	
Wheat - - -	152,521
Oats - - -	112,583
Barley - - -	25,951
On hides, skins, &c., cwts.* -	1,106
Live Stock, viz:—	
Horses - - -	74
Sheep - - -	374
Timber - - -	£23,494
Vegetables, tons - -	1,847

* On the number of packages there was an increase of 55.

The value of the imports and exports, taken together, amounted to 2,263,986*l.* in 1876, and to 2,271,918*l.* in 1875, the difference being 7,932*l.* in favour of 1875. Imports and exports.

The stocks of goods in the bonded warehouses show in some instances considerable variations as between 1875 and 1876. The quantities of the principal articles are shown below :— Goods in bond.

	1875.	1876.
Beef and pork, lbs. - -	23,397	9,800
Candles, lbs. - - -	700	2,375
Chicory, lbs. - - -	7,844	22,404
Coffee, lbs. - - -	19,375	22,374
Forfar for bagging, yards -	1,637	3,786
Fruits, dried, lbs. - -	14,321	16,253
Hops, lbs. - - -	3,009	2,571
Malt liquor, in wood, galls. -	360	1,598
Ditto, doz. quarts - -	3,727	2,954
Ditto, doz. pints - -	447	404
Oil, galls. - - -	385	3,221
Pepper, lbs. - - -	9,208	4,619
Rice, lbs. - - -	3,752	36,804
Sacks, corn, No. - -	9,900	40,300
Spirits :		
Brandy, galls. - -	18,054	18,745
Rum, ditto - - -	15,226	13,439
Geneva, ditto - -	12,280	12,768
B. S. Gin, ditto - -	103	705
Whisky, ditto - -	2,662	4,263
Starch, lbs. - - -	7,680	12,429
Sugar, raw, cwts. - -	4,437	2,761
Tea, lbs. - - -	182,720	240,608
Tobacco, lbs. - - -	84,474	67,431
Wine, in wood, galls. - -	9,542	8,911
Sago, lbs. - - -	—	14,403
Salt, cwts. - - -	—	1,033
Woolpacks, No. - -	—	2,500

During the year now under review the "International Exhibition" was held at Philadelphia. There can be no doubt that this Exhibition will be productive of beneficial results in bringing together in closer commercial relations the people of the United States and of the Australasian Colonies, and making the capabilities of each country better known to the other. These "world fairs" are in fact the most effectual way in which communities advertise their wares. Tasmania appears to have been fairly represented at Philadelphia, notwithstanding that some articles were lost, and others damaged, on their way thither, but probably more might have been done. Prizes were awarded to Tasmanian exhibitors for wool, wheat, and other cereals, hats and caps, iron ores, tin and tin ore, building stone, slates, and some minor articles.

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A previous exhibition of the articles intended for the Philadelphia Exposition was held at Melbourne. I find at Melbourne the number of exhibits was 332; and that there were awarded, four silver and 22 bronze medals, and 32 certificates of honour. At Philadelphia there were 194 exhibits, and 29 bronze medals and the same number of diplomas of honour were awarded. The grain attracted especial attention, and, at the request of some of the American Agricultural Societies, samples of the finest wheat have been supplied. This Exhibition has already been the means of obtaining for this Colony from the Smithsonian and other learned Societies in the United States presentations of valuable books and seeds.

Shipping.

The total tonnage of shipping in 1875 and 1876, and the increase in the latter year, were as follows:—

	1875.	1876.	Increase in 1876.
Inwards - - - -	129,102	141,181	12,079
Outwards - - - -	133,107	136,303	3,196
Inwards and Outwords - -	262,209	277,484	15,275

The tonnage of shipping entered in 1876 was 141,181; in 1875, 129,102; showing an increase, as regards the former year, of 12,079. The tonnage outwards was—in 1876, 136,303; in 1875, 133,107; the increase in 1876 being 3,196.

The tonnage at the outports in 1876 and 1875 was—

Inwards.	1875.	1876.
Stanley - - -	8,270	8,032
Wynyard - -	3,568	3,142
Leith - - -	6,573	5,287
Torquay - -	2,755	3,267
	21,166	19,728

Outwards.	1875.	1876.
Stanley - -	8,538	6,558
Wynyard - -	3,795	3,251
Leith - -	6,984	5,648
Torquay - -	3,112	3,634
	22,429	19,091

Showing á decrease on the tonnage:—

Inwards - - -	1,438
Outwards - - -	3,338

On the registers on the 31st December 1876 there were 199 vessels, with a tonnage of 19,968. On the corresponding day of

the previous year there were 187 vessels, measuring 18,317 tons. There was, therefore, an increase of 12 vessels, with a capacity of 1,651 tons. TASMANIA.

Two steamers, whose collective tonnage was 558, were added to the registers in 1876.

In the past year 10 vessels were sold out of the Colony, their tonnage being 552, and the value returned 12,275*l.* As compared with 1875 there was an increase of one in the number of vessels, 40 in the tonnage, and 1,855*l.* in the value.

Whaling was fairly successful, 470 tuns of sperm oil, valued at 41,740*l.*, having been brought into port, as against 139 tuns, valued at 12,465*l.* in 1875. The number and crews of vessels employed in the whale fisheries were the same as in 1875, namely, 13 vessels, manned by 315 men, and with a tonnage of 3,525. Whalefisheries.

A comparison of the average retail prices of some of the principal commodities at Hobart Town in 1875 and 1876 shows that bacon, coals (New Town), firewood, flour, wheat, pork, and veal were dearer in the latter year; and that cheese (Colonial), Newcastle coal, eggs, barley, oats, hay, mutton, sugar, and onions were cheaper. Prices.

The contract prices of butter, black oil, sugar, bread, butchers' meat, and wheat, as supplied to the Government, were higher; those of coffee, oatmeal, raisins, sago, salt, tea, tobacco, and liquors were lower.

The return of trades and manufactories shows an increase on the total of 38—the numbers being, in 1875, 3,300; in 1876, 3,338. There were increases on agricultural implement makers, auctioneers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, brickmakers, builders, butchers (48), candle manufactories, carpenters, chemists and druggists, coachmakers, dyers, fellmongers (31), foundries (iron and brass), general dealers and grocers, gunsmiths, jam manufactories (2), mills (flour), pastrycooks and confectioners, potteries, publicans (1), sailmakers, saw-mills (17), tailors, tin-smelting works (1), tin-workers. The following were fewer in 1876 than in 1875:—Bakers, basketmakers, blacksmiths (13), bone-mills, boot and shoe makers, breweries (2), cabinetmakers and joiners, cheesemakers, corn and ship chandlers, engineers, gardeners (market), ginger beer, &c. manufactories, hawkers, ironmongers, iron smelting works (1), maltsters, painters, plumbers and glaziers, pianofortemakers (1), saddle and harness makers, shipwrights and boat-builders (14), stonemasons, tanners (26), turners, wheelwrights, woollen manufactories, woolstaplers and sorters. Trades and manufactories.

The differences in regard to tanners and fellmongers, I find on inquiry, are to be accounted for in a great measure by a change of system at Hobart. It appears that, in order to comply with the law respecting the sale of skins, many persons take out tanners' licenses who are not tanners in the ordinary sense of the term; and in 1875 all such persons were returned as tanners,

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while in 1876, those who were not actually engaged in tanning were excluded. In the same way persons have been returned as fellmongers who were not strictly so.

Wages.

Wages seem to have been generally higher in 1876. Those which show any considerable variation as between the last two years are compared below :—

	1875.	1876.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Carpenters, per diem - -	7 7	8 0
Joiners, ditto - - -	7 9½	8 4½
Masons and cutters, ditto -	8 2	8 6
Builders, ditto - -	8 6¾	8 10
Plasterers, ditto - -	7 3¾	7 8
Plumbers, ditto - -	8 2	9 0
Saddlers, ditto - -	6 9¾	7 4
Tanners, ditto - -	6 8	6 5
Wheelwrights, ditto - -	7 4½	7 11
Day labourers, ditto - -	4 11	5 2
Seamen, per month -	4*l.* 4*s.* 3½*d.*	4*l.* 12*s.* 9½*d.*

The wages of farm labourers were lower, those of reapers, mowers, and shearers, in consequence of the scarcity of hands, were higher. Shepherds' wages, somewhat strangely, were lower. Coachmen and gardeners obtained higher rates; those for grooms were lower. On the average wages of laundresses, housemaids, and nursemaids, there was an increase; on those of cooks and general servants (female), a decrease.

On the whole, the position of the receivers of wages was more favourable.

Gold mining.

The returns relating to gold mining show the following figures for the last two years :—

		1875.	1876.
Average number of persons employed - -		101	129
Alluvial	Gold obtained, ozs. - -	270	100
	Value - - - -	£1,080	£395
Quartz	Quartz crushed, tons - -	3,889	7,830
	Gold produced, ozs. - -	2,740	11,007
	Value of ditto - - -	£10,902	£44,528
	Average value per oz. - -	£3 19*s.* 6*d.*	£4 0*s.* 11*d.*
	Ditto yield per ton - -	14 dwts. 2 grs.	1oz. 8dwts. 3grs.
Total quantity of gold produced, ozs. - -		3,010	11,107
Ditto value ditto - - - -		£11,982	£44,923

It will be observed that not only was the total yield more than trebled in 1876, but the produce per ton was higher, and the gold of better quality. The results of the present year's operations will be still more favourable.

The following yields of some of the best crushings in 1876 were noted by me at the time, and are worth recording here :—

——	Stone crushed.	Gold produced.	Average per Ton.
	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs. dwts. grs.
New Native Youth Company, Nine Mile Springs.	900	1,736	1 18 14
Ditto - - -	1,017	2,374	2 6 16
Ditto - - -	1,100	1,603½	1 9 4
Ditto - - -	760	929	1 4 11
Ditto - - -	45	76	1 13 19
City of Launceston Company	71	102	1 8 18

Mines.

Other minerals that were raised in increased quantities in 1876 were building stone, iron and tin ore, lime and limestone, and slate. The increase in stone for building purposes was 105 tons and 16,000 cubic feet; on iron ore, 500 tons ; on lime, 8,902 bushels ; on limestone, 5,036 tons ; on slates, 197,000 ; on tin ore in the vicinity of Mount Bischoff, it being impossible under present circumstances to get any account of the quantity obtained in the north eastern district, 597 tons. The best information to be gained as to the production of tin is that derived from the Customs Returns of Exports, which have already been under review.

IV.—*Finance.*

Revenue.

The greater portion of revenue is derived from Customs. These in 1876 yielded 185,037*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, an increase of 3,705*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* as compared with 1875. The Customs in 1876 exceeded those of 1854, when they seem to have been at their greatest, namely, 182,489*l.* The revenue collected (omitting fractions), in the last four years is shown below :—

	£		£
1873 - -	169,763	1875 - -	181,328
1874 - -	181,302	1876 - -	185,037

Publicans' licenses yielded 9,425*l.* in 1876, against 9,776*l.* in 1875. Comparing the amount received from these licenses in 1876 with that received in 1867, there was a decrease of 9,080*l.* ; the revenue derived from this source in that year having been 18,505*l.* Stamps produced in 1876, 6,334*l.*, or 53*l.* less than in 1875. The Post Office received 17,745*l.* in 1875, and 19,708*l.* in 1876; the Telegraph Department, 1,919*l.* in 1875, and 2,752*l.* in 1876. The revenue from the sale and leasing of crown lands in the last three years was as follows:—

——	1874.	1875.	1876.
	£	£	£
From sales - - - -	30,565	33,643	21,402
From leases - - - -	7,638	10,922	12,273
Total - -	38,203	44,565	33,675

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While there is a large increase in rents, caused by the taking up of land for the purpose of mining for gold, tin, and other metals, and minerals, there is more than a corresponding decrease in the amount produced by sales.

The total revenue (including outstanding sums, as estimated) for 1876 was 327,349*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; the actual revenue of 1875 having been 342,606*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* The deficiency (omitting minor sums) is referable to the following items:—

	1875.	1876.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Land sales - - - -	33,643	21,402	12,241
Reimbursements - - -	22,447	13,100	9,347
Interest on Launceston and Western Railway Loan - - -	10,558	7	10,551
Total - -	66,648	34,509	32,139

The decrease on the total revenue of 1876 being only 15,256*l.*, and that on the above items 32,139*l.* it appears that there were increases on the other items to the extent of 16,883*l.*

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the General Government in 1876 was 336,387*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, subject to future correction on amount of liabilities at present outstanding.* In 1875 it was 388,089*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, but in this was included a sum of 52,000*l.* for the repayment of Treasury Bills, making the ordinary expenditure of that year 336,089*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* That of 1876 was, therefore, 297*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* in excess. The variations in the amounts of the different items is so trifling that they need not be further noticed.

Imperial expenditure.

The expenditure in this Colony on account of the Imperial Government was in 1876, 15,412*l.* 12*s.*, being 1,267*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* more than in 1875.

Course of exchange.

The rates of exchange with London did not differ much from those which prevailed in 1875, although they were steadier. In 1875 the banks purchased bills at from quarter per cent. discount to par; in 1876 from quarter to half per cent. discount. The premium on bank bills in 1875 was from half to 1 per cent.; in 1876 from five-eighths to seven-eighths. The exchange with the other Australasian Colonies, as also the rates of discount and Interest, were the same in both years.

Banks.

The assets and liabilities of the banks in the last quarters of 1875 and 1876 were as follows:—

	1875.	1876.
ASSETS.	£	£
Specie and buillion - -	245,459	256,499
Debts due to other banks -	1,245,215	1,357,198
Landed property, and balances due from other banks -	55,948	8,126
	£1,546,622	1,681,823

* The Assistant Colonial Treasurer has informed me that item "Outstanding Expenditure," as given in the Return, should be increased by about 3,000*l.*, on account of claims made by the Road Trusts since the Return was completed.

	1875.	1876.
LIABILITIES.	£	£
Notes and bills in circulation - - -	108,936	120,254
Deposits - - -	1,277,585	1,463,008
Balances due to other banks	4,240	2,582
	1,390,761	1,585,844

The increases on the totals were—	£
Assets - - - -	135,201
Liabilities - - -	195,083

Savings banks.

The number of accounts open at the savings banks at the end of February 1877, was 11,514; in 1876, 11,208; the amount to credit of depositors 1877, 302,273*l.*; 1876, 289,223*l.*; the average amount of depositors' balances, 1877, 26*l.* 5*s.*; in 1876, 25*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* The total amount of deposits and repayments in the two years from March to February was—

	Deposits.	Repayments.
	£	£
1876–7 - - - -	177,679	164,630
1875–6 - - - -	160,485	146,620
Increase - -	17,194	18,010

Post office money orders.

The returns relating to post office money orders show that seven additional offices for the issue and payment of such orders were opened in 1876; that the number of orders issued in the course of the year was 8,851, the amount being 32,426*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; that the number paid was 6,953, the amount being 25,559*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

Comparing the business of 1876 with that of the preceding year, we find the following increases :—

		Absolute Increase.	Increase per cent.
On orders issued	Number - -	1282	16·94
	Amount - -	4,311*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*	15·33
On orders paid	Number - -	774	12·53
	Amount - -	2,740*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*	11·86

Public debt.

The public debt of the Colony on 31st December 1876, was 1,520,500*l.* On the last day of the previous year it was 1,489,400*l.*, the addition in 1876 having been 31,100*l.* The rate per head of the population at the end of 1876 was 14*l.* 8*s.* 3½*d.* The rate of interest on the greater part, amounting to 1,127,900*l.* was 6 per cent.; on the remaining 392,600*l.* it was 5 per cent.; the amount paid for interest in the year being 86,379*l.* 14*s.*

Local revenue, &c.

The local bodies had an aggregate revenue of 112,791*l.* and an aggregate expenditure of 115,176*l.*

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Taxation.

The amount of taxation in 1876 was as follows:—

	£
General - - -	216,405
Local - - -	71,239
	£287,644

And the rate per head of the mean population:—

	£	s.	d.
General - - -	2	1	4½
Local - - -	0	13	7½
	£2	15	0

Public works.

On public works there were expended in 1876 the following sums:—

	£	s.	d.
On ordinary services - -	10,371	17	0
On works under special Acts -	20,883	17	6
	£31,255	14	6

The expenditure under special Acts may be classified as under:—

		£	s.	d.
Under Local Public Works Act.	Bridges -	8,512	5	0
	Breakwaters -	2,109	7	5
Under Waste Lands Act: Roads and bridges - - -		3,017	2	4
Cutting tracks through crown lands		748	15	4
Erection of and additions to buildings - - -		2,700	16	10
Electric telegraphs - -		1,408	4	2
Construction of roads in mining districts - - - -		2,387	6	5

V.—*Establishments maintained or assisted by Government.*

Post Office.

The Post Office returns show that the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through the various post offices in the Colony during the past year, and the increases as compared with 1875, were as follows:—

——	No. in 1876.	Increase.
Letters.		
Inland - - - - -	1,357,322	167,242
Ship { Received - - - -	294,234	31,766
Ship { Despatched - - - -	258,027	15,319

—	No. in 1876.	Increase.
Packets.		
Inland	48,657	11,842
Ship { Received	32,578	3,943
Ship { Despatched	7,478	930
Newspapers.		
Inland	950,213	77,643
Ship { Received	264,230	14,339
Ship { Despatched	238,071	9,092

On the total number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched the increases per cent. were:—

Letters	12·65
Packets	23·22
Newspapers	7·54

It will be seen that the increase on newspapers was very much smaller than that on letters and packets.

The revenue of the Post Office in 1876 is estimated by the Secretary at 14,450*l.*; the expenditure was 21,349*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.*; the increases being, respectively, 950*l.* and 1,347*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

The number of post offices and receiving houses was 177; the number of miles of post roads 1,359; and the mileage traversed in conveying mails, 481,512.

Seven new Post Offices were established during the year; there were 66 additional miles of post roads, and 44,976 more miles travelled by mail conveyances.

Telegraph.

During the year 1876, 8 new telegraph stations were opened, and 117 miles of line, and 162 miles of single wire were added; making at the end of the year, 40 stations, 513 miles of line, and 630 miles of wire.

The number of messages transmitted through the lines in that year is returned as 53,475 between stations within Tasmania, 12,613 between Tasmania and other countries; the number of both being 66,088.

The revenue was 3,042*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*; the expenditure 3,886*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.*

The increases were as under:—

—	Absolute Increase.	Increase per cent.
On messages { Within the Colony	14,936	38·75
On messages { Beyond the Colony	1,526	13·76
On total messages	16,462	33·17
On revenue	£798 12*s.* 2*d.*	26·24
On expenditure	£1,209 2*s.* 9*d.*	45·16

Launceston and Western Railway.

The receipts of the Launceston and Western Railway in 1876 are stated to have been 18,415*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*; the working expenses 15,782*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; leaving a surplus of income over expenditure

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of 2,633*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* A sum of 1,903*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* was applied to the construction of new works; and the manager remarks that even after debiting the revenue with this item, in addition to working expenses, ordinary and extraordinary, there remained a balance of receipts of 730*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* towards payment of interest.

The working expenses (15,782*l.*) were in the proportion of 85·70 per cent. of the revenue.

The corresponding figures for 1875 were :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts - - - -	19,435	13	2
Working expenses - - -	16,213	1	0
Balance in favour of receipts-	£3,222	12	2
Balance towards payment of interest, after deducting 1,657*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* for new works - - -	£1,565	0	7

Comparing more closely the figures for the two years, we find that there was an increase in the passengers in 1876 of 10,895, or 11·83 per cent., and in the passenger fares of 706*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, or 7·73 per cent. On receipts for conveyance of parcels, horses, carriages, and dogs, there was an increase to the extent of 126*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* On the goods traffic there was a decrease of 5,207 tons, and of 1,891*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* on the receipts. Conveyance of live stock also produced less by 11*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* On rents, conveyance of mails, &c. there was an increase of 50*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*

Whatever other causes may have operated to occasion this decreas in the quantity of goods carried, the deficiency in the yield of wheat, oats, potatoes, apples, and pears, as compared with that of the preceding year, must have had a considerable share in bringing it about.

The passenger train miles travelled over in 1876 was 85,039 against 85,644 in 1875; the total mileage, 1,746,524 against 1,615,119; the average miles per passenger 16·95, against 17·53; the average number of passengers carried per train, 54·39 and 48·92 respectively, showing a considerable increase; the average number of passengers per train mile, 1·21 and 1·08 respectively.

The average receipts from passengers in 1876 and 1875 respectively were :—Per passenger per mile 1·35 and 1·36; per passenger train mile 2*s.* 3·76*d.* and 2*s.* 1·59*d.*; per train 5*l.* 3*s.* 10·66*d.* and 4*l.* 16*s.* 11·95*d.*; per passenger 1*s.* 10·92*d.* and 1*s.* 11·79*d.*; per week 189*l.* 3*s.* 11·21*d.* and 175*l.* 12*s.* 4·48*d.*

For the goods traffic the corresponding figures were, in the same years :—Train miles, 85,039 and 86,994; ton miles, 533,539 and 747,176. The averages were respectively—tons per train, 10·89 and 13·61; per train mile, 0·24 and 0·30; miles travelled per ton, 25·86 and 29·69; receipts per ton per mile, 2·91*d.* and 2·69*d.*; per goods train mile, 1*s.* 6·28*d.* and 1*s.* 11·09*d.*; per ton 6*s.* 3·37*d.* and 6*s.* 5·75*d.*; per train, 3*l.* 8*s.* 5·07*d.* and 4*l.* 8*s.* 1·85*d.*; per week, 124*l.* 11*s.* 9·77*d.* and 160*l.* 19*s.* 4·10*d.*

The Return relating to Marine Boards is, I am sorry to say, not complete, the accounts of the Mersey Board not having been furnished, although repeatedly applied for. A new Master Warden having been appointed in the present year, I applied to him for them; but was informed that he was unable to furnish them, the books and papers not having been handed over to him. Marine boards.

The light houses in 1876 received from light dues, interest, &c., 2,869*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; and from sums contributed by other Governments, 1,436*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*; making together, 4,306*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* More was received from light dues than in 1875, but the contributions from other Governments were smaller. The expenditure in 1876 was 4,898*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.* against 4,797*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* in 1875. Lighthouses.

The Salmon Breeding Establishment in 1876 cost 201*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* Its receipts were: from licenses to fish for trout, 61*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.*; from sale of ova, 10*l.*; making the incomings about 35 per cent. of the expenditure. The number of ova and fry distributed during the year was as follows:— Salmon Breeding Establishment.

	OVA.	
Salmon trout—New Zealand	- - -	250
Victoria	- - -	250
Brown trout—New South Wales	- -	250
Victoria	- - -	2,000
Mr. Brewer, North-east Coast	-	500
Total	- -	3,250
	FRY.	
Salmon trout—Lawceston	- - -	200
Brown trout—River Plenty	- - -	750
Mr. Pillinger, M.H.A., for Blackman River	- - -	300
Mr. Shoobridge	- - -	400
Mr. J. Smith for River Forth and tributaries	- - -	500
Total	- -	2,150

From a return laid before Parliament in the present year, it appears that in the period from 1869 to 1876, both included, the number of ova and fry of brown and salmon trout distributed for stocking the rivers in this and the other Australasian Colonies was as follows:—

Salmon Trout.	
Ova - - - -	3,850
Fry - - - -	1,521
Brown Trout.	
Ova - - - -	67,600
Fry - - - -	32,849
Total ova and fry -	105,820

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The brown trout have now been introduced into 33 different localities in this Colony, besides the lakes.

Government establishments, numbers, &c.

Following the return relating to the salmon breeding establishment comes a group of returns embracing:—1. The Government hospitals. 2. The establishments for paupers. 3. The gaols and penal establishments.

The general hospitals had 24 wards or rooms, with an aggregate capacity of 293,130 cubic feet and 200 beds,—136 for males and 64 for females. 125 patients remained from the previous year, 1,568 were admitted during 1876, 989 were discharged cured or relieved, 110 incurable, 254 at their own request or on unspecified grounds, 181 died, leaving 159 remaining at the end of the year; the daily average number being, in whole numbers, 159.

The pauper establishments for adults had 39 wards or rooms, with a capacity of 649,596 cubic feet, and 1,069 beds,—919 for males and 150 for females. They had 807 inmates remaining from the previous year, 972 were admitted, 818 were discharged, 131 died, and 830 remained at the end of the year; the daily average being 854.

The Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children had 14 rooms, with a capacity of 207,392 cubic feet, and beds for 174 children. At the beginning of the year there were 167 inmates, 15 were admitted during the year, 41 were discharged, and 141 remained at the end of the year, the average daily number throughout the year being 157.

The hospitals for the insane had 143 wards or rooms,—the aggregate capacity of which cannot be stated, not having been returned for the Hospital at New Norfolk,—and beds for 372 patients, 236 males and 136 females. There were remaining from the previous year 347 patients, 46 were admitted during 1876, 14 were re-admitted, 18 were discharged cured, 10 improved, 1 absconded, and 39 died, leaving 339 in these institutions at the end of the year; the daily average being 315, of whom 212 were chargeable to the Colonial Government and 103 to the Imperial. On the 31st December 1876 the number remaining was smaller by eight than on the corresponding day in the previous year.

The proportion to population of the insane on 31st December 1876 was 1 in 310, or 3·22 per 1,000. I find it stated that in New South Wales (1876) the proportion was 1 in 361; in Victoria (1875), 1 in 322; in England (same year), 1 in 373. The proportion in Tasmania compares unfavourably with that in the other countries named; but the explanation of this is doubtless to be found in the large number chargeable to the Imperial Government having been originally transported offenders, whose insanity is, if not the direct consequence, at least a concomitant, of their criminal habits or propensities, often, it must be supposed, the result of inherited unsoundness of mind.

At the penal establishments the accommodation continued to be the same as in the preceding year. The numbers were:—Re-

maining at the beginning of 1876, 471; received during the year, 1,564; discharged, 1,665; absconded, 5; died, 8; remaining at the end of the year, 357; average daily number during the year, 408, nearly. As compared with the average for 1875, that for 1876 shows a decrease of 85 criminals, or about 17 per cent. TASMANIA.

The average ages of the adult inmates of the pauper and penal establishments was as follows:—Paupers, Brickfields, 69; Cascades (omitting fractions), 65; New Town, 64; Launceston, 67; Port Arthur, 60. Criminals, Campbell Street Gaol, 45; Cascades, males, 56; females, 38; Launceston, 43; Port Arthur, 42. Ages.

The state of education of the inmates is given this year for all the pauper and penal establishments, with the exception of the paupers at the Cascades. The per-centages under the different classes were as follows:— Education.

—	Unable to read.	Able to read only.	Able to read and write.	Of superior Education.
Pauper establishments (Cascades excepted).	31·14	18·82	49·05	0·99
Queen's Asylum -	8·24	19·78	71·98	—
Reformatory for Boys -	31·11	11·11	57·78	—
Gaols and penal establishments.	36·08	16·23	46·69	1·00

At the date of the last census the state of education of the whole population, at all ages, was as shown by the following proportions:—

	Per cent.
Unable to read - -	29·64
Read only - - -	14·04
Read and write - -	56·32

Of the criminals in confinement during the year, 152 were employed in hard labour within the prison, 125 outside, 66 were engaged in other employments, and 57 were unemployed. Employment of prisoners.

The following were the punishments inflicted for offences committed within the prisons:—Irons, 3; solitary imprisonment, 160; others, 88. Punishments.

Two hundred and ninety-one prisoners were convicted once before; 533 twice; and 538 three or more times: the majority being thus old offenders. Previous convictions.

The expenditure on account of all the charitable and penal establishments for the last two years is shown below. Cost.

The gross expenditure on account of the before-mentioned establishments in 1876 was 48,216*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and the receipts by sale of produce and from other sources, 6,303*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, leaving the net cost, 41,913*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* Of the gross expenditure, 8,716*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* was incurred for general hospitals; 9,521*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* for hospitals for the insane; 12,900*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* for pauper establishments; 2,697*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* for the Queen's Asylum; 432*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

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for the so-called Training School or Reformatory for Boys; and 13,948*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* for gaols and penal establishments.

Comparing the cost of all these establishments for 1876 with that for 1875, we find the following increases:—On salaries and allowances, 424*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; on other expenses, 1,056*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*; on both, that is on the total gross expenditure, 1,481*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; on the net cost, 2,499*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; the amount of cash received having been 1,018*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* less than in 1875.

The increase in expense seems to have been chiefly caused by a serious rise in the price of the chief articles of food, namely, wheat and bread, butcher's meat, and sugar.

The following was the average cost per head in these establishments, calculated on the gross expenditure in the last two years, taken in connexion with the average number maintained:—

	Gross Cost per Head.						Average daily Number.	
	1875.			1876.			1875.	1876.
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*		
General hospitals - -	50	5	3½	54	14	11¼	139	159
Hospitals for insane - -	28	6	9¾	30	4	0¾	322	315
Pauper establishments for adults.	13	8	8½	15	2	1¼	846	854
Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children.	15	17	5¾	17	5	3¼	192	157
Reformatory for Boys -	17	10	11¾	28	4	2¾	27	15
Gaols and penal establishments (adults).	32	7	9	36	19	3½	445	384
Children of prisoners in ditto	12	7	3¾	11	5	8¾	21	9
Total - -	—			—			1,992	1,893

A considerable proportion of the increase in the cost per head at some of the establishments, is attributable to the diminution in the number of persons maintained, the supervision and some other expenses being, of course, the same, or nearly so, whether the number be greater or less.

Queen's Asylum farm.

The return relating to the farm attached to the Queen's Asylum shows an expenditure in 1876 of 667*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, the value of the produce being 1,127*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a profit of 459*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* As compared with the figures for the preceding year, there was an increase in the expenditure of 56*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, chiefly on purchase of stock; in the value of produce, of 193*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*; and in the balance to profit, of 137*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Out-door relief.

The sum disbursed in out-door relief to the indigent during 1876 was 10,346*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, being 828*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* more than in the year before.

Establishments assisted by Government.

The charitable institutions assisted by the Government had an aggregate revenue (including the balances brought forward) of 4,302*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, of which 918*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* was derived from private subscriptions, and 1,857*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* from Government; the former amount being to the latter in the proportion of 49·46 per cent., or nearly one half. In 1875 the proportion of private contribu-

tions to the Government grants was 75·73 per cent., the falling off being chiefly in the subscriptions to the Benevolent Society, Hobart Town, which were returned as 667*l.* 5*s.* in 1875, and only 186*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* in 1876.

The total number of persons relieved by the benevolent societies in 1876 was 835, and in 1875, 890, being 55 less in the former year, a decrease of rather more than 6 per cent.

Other institutions aided by the State were the ragged schools and the Royal Society. The revenue of the ragged schools declined from 908*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* in 1875 to 584*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* in 1876; the private subscriptions from 205*l.* to 146*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*; the Government grant from 703*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* to 437*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* As to the Royal Society, the only remark that need be made is, that while the sum received from members had increased, the casual receipts having diminished and the expenditure been greater, the Society was in a less favourable position at the end than at the beginning of the past year.

Boards of works.

The boards of works had at their disposal at the commencement of 1876 1,174*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, of which they appear to have spent no more than 87*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance to their credit at the end of the year of 1,087*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

Road trusts.

The road trusts had under their control in 1876 3,625¼ miles of road. The amount at their disposal (including balances to the extent of 7,360*l.* 1*s.* 8½*d.* from the preceding year) was 33,188*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*; and their expenditure was 31,306*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; leaving a sum of 1,881*l.* 18*s.* 1½*d.* available for the present year.

Bridge trusts.

The two bridge trusts, both of which derive their funds from tolls, had a revenue (including balance of 103*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*) of 1,753*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*, an expenditure of 1,597*l.* (including a payment of 500*l.* by the Bridgewater Trust, in aid of the general revenue), and a balance of 156*l.* 5*s.* 1½*d.* to be carried to 1877.

Municipalities.

In the municipalities (including the two principal towns) the annual value of rateable property in 1876 was 526,163*l.*; the revenue (including balance from the previous year, 2,548*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*) was 83,275*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; and the expenditure 82,049*l.* 11*s.* 3½*d.*

In 1875 the revenue was only 56,047*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.*, the expenditure 57,206*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.* In 1876 the amounts are swelled up on the debit side by a sum of 26,300*l.* received from loans, and on the credit side by 11,750*l.* for repayment of loans.

Valuation of property.

The annual value of property in Tasmania, as shown by the valuation rolls, in 1876, was 627,430*l.*, against 604,347 in 1875; the increase being 23,083*l.*, or about 3·8 per cent.

Comparing the valuation in 1876 with that of 1870, we find that in Hobart Town and Launceston together it had increased from 157,078*l.* to 170,105*l.*, and all but continuously; but in the rural municipalities in 1870 it was 357,714*l.*, from which it declined to 340,480*l.* in 1873, and rose by degrees to 356,058*l.* in 1876; while in the police districts it was 95,432*l.* in 1870, about 102,000*l.* in the two following years, thence declined to 95,687*l.*,

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in 1874, and rose again to 97,878*l.* in 1875, and 101,267*l.* in 1876.

It appears then that the principal advance in the value of property has occurred in Hobart Town and Launceston; and that in the rural municipalities the valuation, though it has been rising since 1872, was smaller in amount in 1876 than in 1870.

VI.— *Crown Lands, Agriculture, &c.*

Crown lands.

The amount of land leased under "The Waste Lands Act," and the rental therefrom, in 1875 and 1876, were as follows:—

	1875.		1876.	
	Area.	Rental.	Area.	Rental.
	Acres.	£	Acres.	£
Ordinary land - - -	661,371	6,694	778,015	6,364
Islands - - - -	802,552	803	512,320	398
Total - -	1,463,923	7,497	1,290,335	6,762
Decrease in 1876 - - -	—	—	173,588	735

The total amount of land sold, and the sum for which it was sold, in the same years was:—

	Area.	Sum for which sold.
	Acres.	£
1875 - - -	42,307	46,995
1876 - - -	26,567	36,490
Decrease in 1876 -	15,740	10,505

In the lots of land sold not exceeding 500 acres, there was an increase in 1876 of 5,549 acres; in the lots of 500 acres and upwards, a decrease of 21,289.

The average price per acre of land sold in the above-mentioned years was:—

	1875.			1876.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
For town lots	3	13	8½	4	8	6
For country lots - -	1	1	2½	1	6	1

being considerably in favour of 1876.

There were granted on immigration certificates 440 acres in that year, against 497 in 1875.

The total number of acres alienated up to the end of 1876 is returned as 4,051,815, leaving 12,726,185 acres still unalienated.

The interest in mining for gold and other minerals increased greatly in 1876, and the result is shown by the following comparisons:—

Gold.

	1875.	1876.
Area of leases applied for, acres -	20	750
Miners' rights issued - - -	292	529
Amount received from gold fields -	£256	£1,359

Other Minerals.

	1875.			1876.		
	No. of Leases granted.	Area.	Rental.	No. of Leases granted.	Area.	Rental.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Tin - -	66	5,203	1,301	170	11,760	2,940
Iron - -	1	30	4	—	—	—
Coal - -	1	20	10	2	278	40
Bismuth - -	3	240	60	—	—	—
Slate - -	—	—	—	4	280	35
Total -	71	5,493	1,375	176	12,318	3,015

The figures for 1875 are more than doubled in 1876.

The number of these leases in force, the area, and rental receivable, at the end of the year, for the two years was as under:—

	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rental.
		Acres.	£
1875 - - -	127	9,729	2,411
1876 - - -	303	22,046	5,426

In regard to the gold fields the Commissioner reports to me in these terms:—

"The mining industry during the early part of the year was in a state of collapse. The splendid success, however, which attended the efforts of the New Native Youth Company at the Nine Mile Springs gave a powerful impetus to those engaged in mining pursuits, and towards the close of the year and since the beginning of 1877, the activity displayed has far surpassed anything heretofore known in Tasmania in connexion with the search for gold. There are now at the Nine Mile Springs some half dozen claims being worked with powerful steam machinery, besides a number of others being opened up by ordinary hand appliances. At the Denison several claims are being tested, and preparations

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made for applying steam. At Waterhouse and the Back Creek many of the old claims are again taken up, and I have every reason to believe will be properly tested. Several applications have also recently been made for claims in the Fingal District. The present population of the gold field is somewhere about 600; 69 leases have been applied for, and upwards of 1,000*l.* received as fees since the beginning of the year [1877].

"The reckless dealing in shares which at one time formed the leading characteristic in mining circles has been succeeded by *bonâ fide* application of capital to the thorough prospecting and testing of the several claims operated upon, although there is still to be seen much of that unwholesome excitement which appears to be inseparable from such a fascinating species of speculation."

Agriculture.

The average of land in cultivation in the last two years was as shown below:—

	1875–6.	1876–7.
Wheat - - -	42,745	38,977
Barley - - -	5,939 *	6,258
Oats - - -	32,556	23,580
Rye - - -	71	67
Pease - - -	5,951	6,648
Beans and Tares -	766	691
Potatoes - -	6,906	7,954
Other root crops (including onions) -	3,256	2,635
Grasses for seed -	1,778	2,293
Hay - - -	34,758	29,664
Hops - - -	661	641
Other crops - -	82	65
Gardens and orchards -	6,189	6,419
Green forage - -	941	1,407
Total in crop -	142,547	127,282
Permanent grasses -	102,023	113,571
Bare fallow - -	20,517	21,532
Other cultivated land -	67,743	70,185
Total under cultivation	332,824	332,558

	1875–6.	1876–7.
New land broken up -	3368	2,425
Under rotation of crop -	10,357	8,613

In the total acreage under crop there was a decrease of 15,265; on the acreage in wheat a decrease of 3,768; in the acreage in

* As corrected.

oats a decrease of 8,976 ; on the land in hay a decrease of 5,094 acres.

The figures given above support the general testimony of the collectors of these statistics, that the tendency is to abandon agriculture in favour of stock-keeping ; but the want of rain during a part of 1876 appears to have been one cause of the decrease in the area under crop in that year. Wheat, however, in consequence of its present high price, and the probability in view of the deficient harvest in the great wheat-growing countries, South Australia and California, of remunerative rates being maintained, may be expected to receive more attention in the coming season.

The number of acres of wheat reaped by machine in 1875–6 was 6,473, in 1876–7, 6,496, showing a very slight increase.

The number of persons from whom were received both agricultural and stock returns was 6,864 in 1875–6, and 6,593 in 1876–7 ; while that of those who furnished returns of live stock only was 919 in the former year, and 992 in the latter—another indication of the growing preference for stock as compared with tillage.

The produce of the principal crops in these years was :—

	1875–6.	1876–7.
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat - -	700,092	752,070
Barley - -	165,357	147,536
Oats - - -	827,043	571,485
Pease - -	121,460	117,119
Grasses - -	21,984	26,929
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay - - -	49,217	35,907
Potatoes - -	24,455	27,289
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Hops - - -	1,032,008	839,514
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Apples - -	136,682	153,812
Pears - -	16,310	23,148

The growth of flax for seed has greatly increased. In the last year 58 acres were returned under this crop, the produce being 22,680 lbs., against 13,768 in the preceding season.

For the first time mustard appears in the returns of crops, 5 acres having been grown in the district of Port Sorell, yielding 3,300 lbs. of seed. Tobacco as a crop has nearly disappeared; its use for sheep-washing having apparently been almost entirely superseded by that of sulphur, as is shown by the large imports of the latter article.

The average yield of wheat per acre in the past year was the largest in the 10 years. That of other agricultural produce,

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except carrots and onions, was smaller than in the year before. Below are given the averages for the last two years.

	1875–6.	1876–7.
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat - - -	16·38	19·29
Barley - - -	27·84	23·58
Oats - - -	25·41	24·24
Pease - - -	20·38	17·62
Beans - - -	26·27	23·33
Tares - - -	16·77	14·56
Grass seed - -	12·40	11·75
	Tons.	Tons.
Potatoes - -	3·55	3·43
Turnips - - -	7·56	6·05
Carrots - - -	7·94	8·08
Mangel Wurzel - -	12·85	11·55
Onions - - -	4·92	5·04
Hay - - -	1·42	1·21
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Hops - -	1563·06	1309·69

The average yield of cereals in some of the districts was very satisfactory. The highest averages of wheat were—

	Bushels per acre.
Russell - - - -	34·48
Port Sorell - - -	25·45
Longford - - -	23·29
Huon - - - -	24·15
Hobart - - -	22·02

Of barley:—

Huon - - - -	28·37
Glenorchy - - -	28·10
Hobart - - - -	27·75
Launceston - - -	27·44
Fingal - - - -	27·22

Of oats:—

Port Sorell - - -	28·06
Longford - - -	27·27
Launceston - - -	26·79
New Norfolk - - -	26·54
Fingal - - - -	26·41

Mustard yielded in 1876–7, 660 lbs. per acre; flax 391 lbs. of linseed to the acre.

The average produce per acre of the principal crops in Victoria in 1876–7, was as follows:—

Wheat, bushels - - -	13·2
Oats, ditto - - -	19·9
Potatoes, tons - - -	3·3
Hay, ditto - - -	1·2

The average yield of wheat in South Australia in the same year on the acreage reaped was 6·7 bushels per acre. TASMANIA.

Below are shown the average prices throughout the Colony of the principal articles of agricultural produce in the last two years :— Prices.

	1875–6.			1876–7.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Wheat, per bushel -	0	4	6¼	0	5	6½
Barley, ditto -	0	4	4	0	4	0¾
Oats, ditto - -	0	2	4½	0	2	7
Potatoes, per ton -	3	10	9	4	2	11½
Hay, ditto - -	3	16	5	3	5	11½
Hops, per lb. -	0	1	4¾	0	1	4¾
Apples, per bushel -	0	3	11¼	0	4	3½
Pears, ditto - -	0	3	9¼	0	3	11

The return of agricultural machinery in use in 1876 shows on the whole a decline as compared with the return for the previous year. This is to be accounted for by the fact before adverted to, namely, that the tendency is to abandon agriculture in favour of stock keeping. The decreases were : chaff-cutters from 215 to 197 ; cultivators, from 127 to 99; hay elevators, from 24 to 14; horse hoes, grubbers, and scarifiers, from 478 to 443; ploughs, subsoil, from 114 to 106; reaping machines, from 117 to 108 ; reaping and mowing machines in one, from 103 to 90 ; seed drills, from 65 to 64; sowing machines, from 19 to 16; threshing machines, from 247 to 227. The increases were : steam engines, from 70 to 79 ; clod crushers, from 58 to 67 ; corn crushers, from 18 to 60 ; hay rakes, from 149 to 157 ; irrigation works, the motive power of which was horse or steam, from 11 to 21 ; lift and force pumps, from 12 to 79 ; mowing machines, from 33 to 46 ; ploughs, double furrow, from 26 to 33. One three-furrow plough is returned at New Norfolk for 1876–7. Agricultural machinery.

The following is the number of live stock (not including those on the Islands in the Straits) in the Colony on 31st March last, as compared with the number in 1875:— Live stock.

	1876.	1877.
Horses - -	23,473	23,622
Horned cattle - -	118,694	124,459
Sheep - -	1,719,768	1,755,142
Goats - -	2,242	2,437
Pigs - - -	47,664	60,681

There is an increase upon all ; but that on pigs was remarkable, the more so, because the number in the two previous years had been declining. The number of pigs is the largest in the 10 years.

The washing of sheep in warm water continues to decline in favour ; the number of flock-masters who practised it having been returned as 32 in 1875–6, and only 17 in 1876–7 ; while the

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number who sheared their sheep in the grease increased from 372 to 412 in the same period.

During 1876 there were imported: sheep, 12,054, against 19,411 in 1875; and cattle, 805, against 1,173. The number slaughtered at Hobart Town and Launceston, at the public slaughter-houses, was: sheep, 77,648, against 72,089; cattle, 8,168, against 7,783; and pigs, 5,259, against 4,976.

The collectors, generally, especially on the northern side, speak in hopeful terms of the state and prospects of their several districts as regards agricultural and pastoral operations. The use of artificial manures is said to be extending, more skill and care are shown in the cultivation of the land in some places at least, and more attention is given to the breeding and management of stock.

VII.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

The number of persons committed for trial in 1876 was 94, being 14 fewer than in 1875.

Commitments.

Seventy-five persons are returned as having been dealt with by the superior courts in 1876, of whom 51 were convicted, 20 acquitted, 2 remanded, and 2 not prosecuted. As to the nature of the offences, 26 were against the person, 44 against property, and 5 were classed as "miscellaneous." The convictions in 1876 were two more than in 1875, but the whole number of persons who came under the cognizance of these courts was less; the decrease being 11, or about 12½ per cent.

Superior courts.

The number tried in the two years for felonies and misdemeanors, respectively, was—

	1875.	1876.
Felonies - -	61	44
Misdemeanors - -	17	27
	78	71

the proportion of misdemeanors being much greater in 1876, and the folonies, of course, in a corresponding degree much smaller.

The murder and manslaughter cases in 1875 were 2, in 1876, 4; those of rape and similar assaults on females were 6 in 1875, and 4 in 1876; unnatural crimes, 6 in 1875, none in 1876; indecent assaults on males, 4 in 1875, none in 1876.

Executions.

No executions took place in 1876. During the last six years only one person has suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

Summary jurisdiction.

The total number of persons dealt with summarily, including those proceeded against for non-payment of local rates, and other cases which resulted only in orders for the payment of money, was in 1876, 9,207; in 1875, 9,088, the increase being 119. The convictions were in the two years 5,567 and 4,438 respectively; an increase of 1,129.

There are two classes of offences in which there was a large increase in 1876, namely, "Drunkenness," and "Obscene, threat-

"ening, abusive, or insulting language or behaviour in public." The increase on the former was 435 cases; on the latter, 504. On "offences against the person," there was an increase of 269; on those against property an increase of 134.

Beside the number of offenders dealt with, 482 were reported to the police, but from various causes, were not brought under the cognizance of the courts.

Litigation.

The Supreme Court, in its ordinary jurisdiction, in 1876, issued 219 writs of summons. Ten causes were entered for trial, and 7 were tried, 6 resulting in a verdict for the plaintiff (the aggregate amount awarded being 486*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*), one in a verdict for the defendant, and three causes were withdrawn. In 1875 the corresponding figures were—writs issued, 250; causes entered, 24; tried, 21; verdicts for plaintiff, 15, for defendant, 2; amount of awards, 764*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; nonsuits and withdrawals, 4.

Here there was a considerable decrease in the business of 1876. As regards the special jurisdiction of the court under "The Small Debts Act," the contrary was the case, as will be seen from the following particulars: — Summonses, warrants, and subpœnas issued: 1875, 101; 1876, 121; cases tried, 1875, 47; 1876, 53; verdicts for plaintiff, 1875, 40; 1876, 49; for defendant, 1875 7; 1876, 4; amount of claims sued for, 1875, 1,521*l.* 6*s.*; 1876, 2,087*l.* 4*s.*; of verdicts obtained, 1875, 690*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; 1876, 731*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

In the business of the courts of requests, as will be seen from the following figures, there was but little difference in the two years:

	1875.	1876.
Summonses issued -	2,244	2,261
Cases tried - -	1,330	1,304
Amount sued for -	£14,267	£14,640
Amount of verdicts obtained	£6,845	£7,794

Divorce.

The business of the Divorce Court in 1876 appears to have been confined to the receiving of two petitions for dissolution of marriage, and the granting of one decree for that purpose. In 1875 two degrees for dissolution were granted but no petitions were received.

Probates, &c.

The number of probates of wills and letters of administration granted in the two last years, and the amount of property concerned, is shown below:—

	1875.		1876.	
	Number.	Property sworn under.	Number.	Property sworn under.
		£		£
Probates - - - -	114	76,414	96	92,571
Letters of Administration -	36	20,898	36	19,713

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Bankruptcies.

The bankruptcies were fewer in 1876 than in 1875. The assets and liabilities cannot be compared, since they are not returned for Hobart Town; though I am unable to discover any sufficient reason why they should be filed at Launceston and in some cases not at Hobart Town. The numbers were as follows:—

		1875.	1876.
Petitions in bankruptcy	Petitions presented -	10	8
	Persons declared bankrupt -	9	8
	Petitions dismissed -	1	—
Petitions for liquidation.	Petitions presented -	21	16
	Liquidations arranged -	15	14
	Petitions not proceeded with	—	2

Mortgages.

The mortgages registered in the two last years were—

	Number.		Amount.	
	1875.	1876.	1875.	1876.
			£	£
Under the old system - -	273	338	242,574	231,985
Under the Lands Titles Act -	127	168	31,243	55,994
Under both systems -	400	506	273,817	287,979

The number of memorials registered was, in 1875, 922; in 1876, 1,039. The number of judgments in 1875, 21; in 1876, 19. Certificates of satisfaction in 1875, 77; in 1876, 73.

Lands Titles Office.

The whole number of transactions under the Lands Titles Act, and the value and area of land dealt with, in the same two years, were—

	1875.	1876.
Number of transactions -	942	1,068
Value of land - -	£202,567	£235,499
Area (fractions omitted), acres - - -	119,331	121,347

As regards the mortgages discharged under this Act there was a large increase in 1875, as will be seen from the following comparison:—

	1875.	1876.
Number - - -	83	108
Value of land - -	£19,415	£31,065

Bills of sale.

The bills of sale registered in 1876 numbered 126, and the renewals 47, the amount secured by both being 49,652*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* In the previous year the numbers were, respectively, 145 and 33, and the amount 69,868*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

Grant deeds.

The number of "grant deeds" enrolled in the registry of the Supreme Court during the past year was 409, against 419 in

1875. For the information of persons not accustomed to some of our colonial phrases, it may be well to explain that "grant deeds" in this connexion do not mean exclusively deeds of gift, but conveyances of land acquired from the Crown by any means, whether by gift or by purchase. The term seems to have come into use in the early times of the Colony, when most of the land alienated was given away or "granted," and to have been continued afterwards when the system of free grants had ceased.

Inquests.

During 1876 inquests were held on 126 persons—96 being males and 30 females. The findings of the jury were—murder 1; suicide, 4; accidental death, 52; injuries, cause unknown, 1; found dead, 19; excessive drinking (which by a most singular perversion of reason is placed under the head of "natural death"), 6; want, cold, exposure, &c., 1; other causes, 42. In 1875 the total number was 154, the deaths from excessive drinking being only 2.

VIII.—*Education, Religion, &c.*

Public schools.

The statistics of the public schools under the Board of Education for the last two years are compared below:—

Year.	No. of Schools.	Distinct Scholars on Rolls during Year.	Average,		Number of Scholars.		Number of Teachers of all Grades.
			No. of Scholars on Rolls during Year.	Daily Attendance.	Entered during Year.	Left during Year.	
1875 -	154	12,271	8,145	5,703	3,776	2,960	272
1876 -	158	12,231	8,140	5,867	3,912	2,776	282
Increase -	4	—	—	164	136	—	10
Decrease -	—	40	5	—	—	184	—

Thus there was an increase on the number of scholars entered during the year of 136; and on the average daily attendance, of 164. In 1875 the daily attendance was to the average number of scholars on the rolls in the proportion of 70·02 per cent; in 1876 the proportion rose to 72·07 per cent.

The cost of these schools in the same years was:—

——	Contributed by the State.	Fees from Parents and Guardians.	Total Cost.	Average Cost to State per head on daily Attendance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1875 - -	13,906 1 7	4,797 5 6	18,703 7 1	2 8 9
1876 - -	14,624 15 1	5,181 13 0	19,806 8	2 9 10¼

To arrive at the total cost to the State of primary education, that of administration and inspection, that is, of the departmental staff, namely, 1,320*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, must be added, making the amount for 1876, 15,945*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

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Superior education.

The cost of the system of superior education provided by the State in the last two years was as under—

		1875. £	s.	d.	1876. £	s.	d.
Exhibitions*	Awarded by Board of Education -	448	3	4	500	6	8
	Council on Education - -	191	1	0	188	0	0
	Degree of Associate of Arts - -	237	0	6	225	19	8
	Tasmanian Scholarships - -	1,033	6	8	1,316	13	4
	Departmental Expenditure -	65	19	10	71	14	5
	Total cost -	1,975	11	4	2,302	14	11

Thus the total expenditure on education in Tasmania from public funds was, in 1876, 18,248*l.* 7*s.*

Friendly Societies.

The friendly societies, as many of them as complied with the requirements of the Act by rendering returns to the clerks of the peace, had at the end of the year 2,149 members. Their aggregate receipts during the year were 7,118*l.* 10*s.*, their expenditure, 6,615*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, and their capital, 16,513*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* Compared with the corresponding figures for 1875, there appear the following increases:—On the number of members, 247; on the revenue, 1,036*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*; on the capital, 4,379*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.*

Three more lodges and societies on the whole filed returns in 1876 than in the preceding year; but there are many which still habitually set the law at defiance in this respect.

IX.—*Vital Statistics.*

Births.

The number of births registered in 1876 was 3,149, being 44 more than in 1875. The males were 1,660 the females 1,489. The proportion of males to females was therefore as 111·49 to 100. With the exception of 1870, when it was 112·23, this is the highest proportion since 1865.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the mean population was in 1876, 30·11, and was exceeded, in the course of the past 11 years, only in 1867 (30·34), 1870 (30·53), and 1871 (30·15).

Deaths.

The deaths registered in 1876 were 1,730, against 2,078 in the previous year. Three criminals (males) also died in 1876, whose deaths were not registered, making the actual number 1,733, or fewer by 346 than in 1875.

The general death rate in 1876 per 1,000 of population was 16·57. It was considerably lower than in 1875 (20·01), but higher than in any of the remaining years of the decennium. That of males was 18·63, of females 14·36.

* Including incidental expenses.

Of the registered deaths, 1,022 were those of males, and 708 those of females.

The number of deaths in each class in the two last years was as follows:—

	1875.	1876.
I. Zymotic - - -	486	347
II. Constitutional - -	260	205
III. Local - - -	844	729
IV. Developmental - -	371	307
V. Violent - - -	106	126
	2,067	1,714

Last year I showed the ratio of deaths in each class to the total deaths from specified causes for three years,—the first year being an average one, the other years abnormal. In the following table the figures are repeated, with the addition of those for 1876:—

Classes of Disease.	Ratio per cent. to total specified Diseases.			
	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
I. Zymotic - -	15·95	18·92	23·51	20·25
II. Constitutional - -	16·35	12·43	12·58	11·96
III. Local - - -	38·63	41·98	40·83	42·53
IV. Developmental - -	21·87	20·06	17·95	17·91
V. Violent - - -	7·20	6·61	5·13	7·35
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The health of the people, physical and moral, ought to be one of the first considerations in every well-regulated state; and I conceive, therefore, that I shall not be giving an undue measure of prominence to the subject, if I stay to analyse the above figures somewhat closely.

Zymotic diseases were less prevalent than in 1875, but much more so than in the other years. The comparative mortality from the principal diseases of this class will readily be seen from the table which follows:—

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Measles - - - - -	—	—	129	1
Scarlatina - - - - -	10	21	31	97
Diphtheria - - - - -	28	36	54	47
Quinsy - - - - -	1	5	5	4
Croup - - - - -	15	22	21	20
Typhus, typhoid, infantile, &c. fever -	24	44	50	26
Erysipelas - - - - -	6	14	13	5
Metria - - - - -	—	9	12	5
Dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera - -	74	85	102	92

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The greatest excess was therefore in scarlatina and diphtheria. Many of the cases of diphtheria were *sequelæ* of Scarlatina. Out of 17 fatal cases registered at Hobart Town in November and December 1876, four were so described, and a fifth was probably of a similar kind. Of the remaining cases five were from the country, chiefly, I believe, from the neighbourhood of Brighton and Green Ponds. At the former locality an investigation by the health officer showed, I understand, that the disease could be traced to the defilement of the river water by excrementitious drainage, sheep-washing, and fellmongering. At Green Ponds the cause of the disease could not be so clearly ascertained, but there were grounds for concluding that in some of the cases at least it was brought from Pontville.

Diphtheria and other diseases produced by accumulated fifth and bad drainage are increasing in various parts of the Colony to an extent that ought to arouse, if anything could, the public from its apathy. It is a disgrace to the vaunted civilisation of the 19th century that the causes of these terrible maladies should not be removed. The remedies, or rather precautions, are, effectual drainage, pure water and air, and the prompt removal of night soil, which ought to be applied to its proper purpose, the fertilisation of the earth.

But so little do people generally know of the laws which concern their health, and so careless are they of it, that nothing less than the most stringent measures will make them take the necessary precautions. Every day lives are sacrificed which, under a rational sanitary system, might be preserved. A single murder will cause the most intense excitement in the public mind, but a wholesale destruction of life through disease engendered by morbific matter suffered to remain and poison air and water is looked upon almost with unconcern, or else profanely styled the "visitation of God." If we viewed the question in its true light we should pronounce a verdict of suicide or manslaughter against the individual who thus poisons himself or others, and against society which, in spite of our present enlarged knowledge of sanitary science, does not make proper regulations for the preservation of the people's health.

The rise in the death rate of Hobart Town and Launceston shows the absolute necessity of taking the most active and stringent measures for preserving the health of the public. Something has already been done in this respect, but it forms but an infinitesimal part of what remains to be achieved.

In the constitutional class of diseases we observe an increase of 3 in the cases of dropsy, and a decrease of 23 in those of cancer, 4 in those of tumor. The tubercular diseases were fewer by 34, the deaths from phthisis being 99 against 114 in the year before.

Under the head of local diseases those of the nervous system were also fewer, the numbers being 267 and 254 respectively.

Paralysis caused 13 deaths less; but apoplexy was unusually fatal, the numbers being 66 against 42 in 1875. The deaths from affections of the heart and circulation were 18 fewer; of the respiratory system, 79 fewer; of the digestive organs, four fewer.

In the development class, we find 11 cases fewer of premature birth, 23 fewer of old age, and 27 fewer of atrophy and debility.

The accidental deaths were more numerous. Drowning caused an increase of 12; poison of five; firearms of three. The suicides were the same in number as in the former year, namely, six, all being males. It is a singular fact that in each of the last four years the number of suicides was the same.

The table which follows shows the ratio per cent. of deaths at each age to the deaths at all known ages in 1876, as compared with the corresponding ratios for the five years, 1869–73 :—

	1876.	1869–73.
Under 1 year - -	16·55	20·26
Between 1 and 2 years -	3·88	3·95
2 and 5 years -	5·79	4·13
5 and 10 years -	5·61	2·76
10 and 40 years -	18·17	16·54
40 and 60 years -	18·00	21·00
60 and 70 years -	13·48	13·76
70 and 80 years -	12·04	12·53
80 and 90 years -	5·67	4·23
90 and upwards -	0·81	0·84
	100·00	100·00

The proportion of children under two years' old was smaller; also of adults between 40 and 80, and of those of 90 and upwards. At the other ages it was greater in 1876 than in the five years. 13 persons between 90 and 100 died in 1876, and 10 in 1875. One person of 100 or upwards paid the debt of nature in 1876. The year 1874 also witnessed the passing away of a centenarian. Two deaths at this age occurred in 1872.

Diseases and deaths in hospitals.

In the hospitals (Hobart Town, Launceston, and Campbell Town), there were 1,755 cases treated, 189 of which terminated fatally, the proportion of deaths to cases being 10·77 per cent. In the previous year the cases treated were 1,547, the deaths 186, and the ratio of deaths to cases 12 per cent.

Queen's Asylum.

At the Queen's Asylum, 148 cases of sickness were treated, but there were no deaths. In 1875 there were 175 cases, and neither in that year was there any death.

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Other establishments.

In the other Government establishments the sickness and mortality were as follows:—

	1875.		1876.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Gaols and penal establishments - -	1,596	19	1,362	8
Charitable establishments other than those above mentioned - - - - -	3,126	130	4,159	131

The increase shown in the cases at the charitable establishments chiefly occurred at the Brickfields, the number having been returned as 325 in 1875 and 2,440 in 1876, and is thus explained by the superintendent:—"For the year 1875 the exact number "applying to the medical officer for treatment was not regularly "kept, but during the year 1876 all who applied for treatment "were booked at each visit of the medical officer."

The following table shows the mortality in 1876 at each of the Government establishments, taken in connexion with the age and accommodation:—

Establishment.	Per cent. of		Average Age.	Cubic Space to each Inmate.
	Daily average Number.	Cases treated.		
Hospitals.				
Hobart Town - - - -	—	9·47	44* / 10*	1,250
Launceston - - - -	—	13·89	39* / 7*	1,789
Pauper Establishments.				
Brickfields - - - -	14·71	1·60	69	500
Cascades - - - -	18·13	3·58	65	623
New Town - - - -	7·28	11·49	64	712
Launceston - - - -	22·91	15·22	67	602
Port Arthur - - - -	10·00	5·11	60	703
Queen's Asylum - - -	—	—	11	1,193
Hospitals for Insane.				
New Norfolk - - - -	16·79	—	46* / 14*	—†
Port Arthur - - - -	3·61	—	54	1,615

* Adults and children respectively.
† Aggregate capacity not stated.

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I called attention in last Report to the high rate of mortality at the pauper establishment at Launceston. The ratio of deaths to the average daily number maintained throughout the year was then 19·51 per cent., with an average age of 66; in 1876 it had risen (the general death rate being lower) to 22·91 per cent., with an average age of 67. At the Brickfields, with a greater average age, and a smaller space for each inmate, it was in the latter year only 14·71 per cent. The mortality at the Cascades was also higher, being 18·13 per cent. In 1875 it was only 14·86 per cent.

Marriages.

The number of marriages registered in 1876 was 746, being an increase of 57, or 8·27 per cent. upon 689, the number in the previous year. The largest absolute increase was on the side of the Wesleyans, being 18; the Free Church of Scotland came next, with an increase of 13; then the Church of England with 11; then the Church of Scotland with 8. The Independents and Primitive Methodists had an increase of 5 each; the Baptists of 2; the Friends of 1. The Church of Rome had a decrease of 8; the "Christians," so-called, of 2. On the number performed by deputy registrars, there was an increase of 4.

There are some very remarkable variations, as will be seen from the subjoined table, in the ratio of marriages to population, as between the different religious denominations. The ratios are calculated on the numbers as shown by the last census, and it is assumed that the "Wesleyans" of the registrar's return are the same as the "Wesleyan Methodists" of the census:—

	Per 1,000 of Population.
Church of England - -	4·66
Church of Rome - -	4·16
Church of Scotland - -	4·67
Free Church of Scotland -	27·27
Independents - - -	38·41
Baptists - - -	2·15
Wesleyans - - -	16·97
Society of Friends - -	12·19

The marriage rate per 1,000 of the general population of 1876 was 7·13, the highest in the past 10 years, the next highest having been 6·83 in 1874. This is very satisfactory, since it is a well recognised fact that the marriage rate is a sort of social barometer, rising or falling with the prosperity or povery of the people.

Meteorology.

The meteorological return for 1876 has been thrown into a form somewhat different from that hitherto employed, the change having been made by the Observer in order to admit of more perfect comparison with the records of other countries. The

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means of the different observations at Hobart Town for the year, as compared with those of 1875, were as follows :—

	Year 1876.	More (+), or less (−).
Barometer - - -	29·86	+·05
Temperature (Fahr.) -	54·76	−4·07
Solar intensity - -	87·82	−4·80
Humidity of air per cent. -	·77	+0·10
Obscuration (0-10) -	6·49	—
Ozone - - -	4·89*	+0·15
Wind, lbs. per foot per month	·82	—

The total rain-fall was 23·63 inches, against 29·25 in 1875; the total evaporation in 1876 being 40·68.

X.—*Miscellaneous.*

Political franchise.

Under this head there is only one return of any interest to the general public—that relating to the political franchise. This, I regret to say, is not perfect, the required information as to the districts of Mersey, Pembroke, and Glamorgan not having been supplied. As regards the districts of Queenborough and Sorell, the numbers struck off the rolls and added to them were not given, in consequence of the returning officer having been changed. The totals, therefore are only approximately correct.

The number of electors for the Legislative Council stood thus: —Before the revision of the rolls, 2,761; after it, 2,834. The per-centage of votes recorded at the last contested elections ranged from 57 in the district of Meander to 84 in that of Huon.

For the House of Assembly the number of electors was:—Before revision, 14,087; after it, 14,487. At the last general election recently held, out of 10,625 on the rolls for the contested electorates 7,577 or 71 per cent. voted; the per-centage in individual districts varying from a minimum of 50 in North Launceston to 87 at Franklin.

Conclusion.

On a review of the whole of the returns contained in the accompanying volume, we note especially the following facts in regard to the past year:—Immigration was increasing, and the population received an accession from that source; the value of the imports indeed was smaller than in 1875, by 52,939*l.*, the chief deficiencies being in machinery and railway materials, but the amount of duty collected (the rates remaining the same) was greater by about 4,000*l.*; the value of the exports exceeded that of the previous year by 45,007*l.*, and was the greatest in the 10 years, and that notwithstanding considerable decreases in the shipments of green fruit, grain, and timber; the quantity of shipping, both

* The mean for 30 years being 7·24.

inwards and outwards, was greater, though there was a falling off at the out-ports; more vessels were on the registers; the farmers and graziers were getting better prices for their produce; wages were higher, and labour more in demand; mining, especially for gold and tin, flourished as it never has before in this Colony, the value of gold obtained being about four times, and that of tin exported about three times, as great as it was in 1875; the revenue exceeded that of 1875 by about 4,000*l.*, and that of 1869 by about 15,000*l.*; the business of the banks and savings' banks was larger; also, of the Post Office, the telegraphs, the railways; the value of property was increased; a larger area of land was occupied under lease for mining purposes, and the revenue from that source was in consequence greatly augmented; bankruptcies were fewer; and crime of the graver kinds diminished. When we come to the statistics of the present year we shall find that our mineral resources are being developed at a still more rapid rate than during the past 12 months.

As to the future, the prospect on the whole is decidedly favourable. The low average in the yield of wheat in South Australia and elsewhere in the last season, together with the disturbance which the present war will probably cause in agricultural operations in Russia, thereby diminishing the supply for the rest of the world, may be expected to keep up the price of wheat; while the freer exchange of commodities between the Australasian Colonies and Canada, and the United States, which seems likely to arise out of the late Exhibitions, and the anticipated opening up of a market for our wools in China, will, if realised, increase the amount of our trade.

There is, however, another side of the picture. The present uncertainty in regard to the relations of the foremost European States must affect prejudicially not only themselves but other countries, even at this remote quarter of the globe; and some deduction must therefore be made on this account.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,

Government Statistician.

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No. 24.

Governor SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Perth,
July 10th, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the Blue Book of Western Australia for 1876, with a covering report from the Acting Colonial Secretary, and a copy of the speech with which I propose to open, this afternoon, the Session of the Colonial Legislature.

2. If the progress of Western Australia has been slow as compared with that of the wealthier Colonies to the eastward, I am happy to think that a perusal of the documents which I enclose will satisfy your Lordship that, on the whole, the condition and prospects of the Colony are now satisfactory and encouraging.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM C. F. ROBINSON.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
May 23rd, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in forwarding to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1876, to offer the following remarks:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

The receipts of revenue for 1876 were estimated at 144,250*l.*; the actual receipts amounted to 147,335*l.*, being about 3,085*l.* over the amount estimated. The nett revenue received during 1876 from Colonial sources, exclusive of grants-in-and on account of police and magistrates, exceeded that for 1875 by 6,155*l.* The principal increases have been under the following heads:—Customs, 4,532*l.*; land revenue, 1,326*l.* The nett expenditure for 1876 amounted to 179,484*l.*, showing an increase of 10,254*l.* over that of 1875, and in excess of the actual revenue by a sum of 17,295*l.*

The excess has arisen from unforeseen and necessary expenditure, principally under the following heads:—

Legislative Council, 581*l.*—Expenditure connected with the Council Chamber and Library, and the salaries of Chairman of Committees and reporter for the latter portion of the year, which were not provided for.

Surveyor-General, 963*l.*—This item is principally in consequence of the vote not having been sufficient to meet the payments on account of contract surveys.

Customs Department, 459*l.*—Maintenance and expenses of revenue cutter for service on the north-west coast in connexion with guano and the pearl shell fishery.

Administration of Justice, 902*l.*—Expenses of witnesses and jurors insufficiently provided for.

Medical Department, 1,042*l.*—Maintenance of increased number of patients in hospitals and the lunatic asylum.

Gaols, 3,157*l.*—Clothing and maintenance of increased number of prisoners in gaols and lock-ups throughout the Colony.

Rottnest Penal Establishment, 1,027*l.*—Provisions and clothing for native prisoners, their numbers having increased in consequence of the more extensive settlement and occupation of the eastern and north-west districts of the Colony.

Charitable Allowances, 1,976*l.*—Maintenance of increased number of paupers, all of whom, from infirmity and old age, are unable to work, and have no means of subsistence.

Works and Buildings, 1,407*l.*

Miscellaneous, 4,405*l.*—Made up of unforeseen expenditure for sundry services. After providing for the total expenditure of the year there remained a balance on the 31st December to credit in the Treasury Chest of 6,869*l.*, the increased expenditure having been more than met by the balance in the chest from the year 1875 of 23,681*l.*

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony amounts to 135,000*l.*, loans raised principally for the construction of a railway towards developing the rich mineral resources of the Geraldton and Northampton Districts. These loans have been authorised under Acts of the Colonial Legislature, and repayment is secured by a sinking fund paid from the revenue of the Colony, equal to two per cent. per annum on the amount of debentures issued.

Public Works.

The telegraph line between Albany and Eucla, on the boundary between this Colony and South Australia, has been in course of construction and is now rapidly progressing towards completion; the dry character of the past summer season has somewhat delayed the work from want of water, both in this territory and that of South Australia. The contractors for the Western Australian portion are at present engaged on the last section, and it is expected that they will have reached Eucla by about the end of the year. As soon then as South Australia has completed her portion there will be an uninterrupted line of telegraphic communication opened up between this Colony and the neighbouring Colonies, Europe and India. It is needless to comment upon the mutual

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advantages which must follow intercolonially on the completion of this important undertaking.

The Geraldton and Northampton Railway is drawing towards completion; its length will be 36 miles, running between Geraldton, the seaport of the Victoria District, and the village of Northampton, passing through a country which gives large promise of rich mineral deposits. Several lead mines are now turning out quantities of ore, and as soon as the railway is completed it is hoped that by the reduced cost of transport many more mines will be opened up, and a large export of ore will follow, bringing population and capital to the Colony.

The consideration of the construction of a line of railway between Fremantle, the seaport town of the Colony, and Guildford, passing the city of Perth, has been brought before the Legislative Council, preliminary surveys were ordered, and a report from the Director of Public Works on the projected line is now ready for transmission to the Secretary of State.

The leading lights at Champion Bay have been completed, and the iron tower for the light at Point Moore has arrived in the Colony, with a mechanic to superintend its erection; the foundations have been completed, and the work of erection will now rapidly advance.

A new lighthouse at Fremantle is in course of erection; it will be a stone building, and is progressing satisfactorily.

Plans and specifications have been drawn up and tenders invited for the construction of a line of telegraph from York to Beverley.

Contracts have been accepted for the erection of a public school at Perth, for the education of girls, and will be capable of accommodating 320 pupils. This building is in course of erection.

The extension of several jetties has been in progress, and various public works of minor importance have been carried out during the year.

Military Expenditure.

The Volunteer Force within the last few years has considerably increased in strength and efficiency; the movement has been increasing in popularity, and has steadily progressed from its first introduction in 1862. The mounted volunteers, Pinjarrah troop, number of all ranks 31; Horse Artillery, 32; Perth Volunteer Rifles, 138; Fremantle, 97; Guildford, 62; total number of Volunteers 360. The expenditure connected with this force is met by a vote of the Legislative Council from Colonial funds, which, ending 31st December 1876, amounted to a sum of 655*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, being at the rate of, in round numbers, 1*l.* 16*s.* per head on the total number of enrolled Volunteers. As a proof of the efficiency to which the Volunteer Corps has arrived, I may quote from the report of the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Harvest, Inspector of Volunteers, to your Excellency on their appearance at the review on the Queen's birthday. The Inspector of Volunteers writes :—" Not only did the entire force look well and " march past steadily, but the various evolutions of the field-day

" were creditably performed, bearing favourable comparison with " the Volunteers of England." The efficiency of the various branches of this service is due to the great interest which the Inspector of Volunteers has taken in its advancement and discipline.

Population.

The births and arrivals during the year amount to 1,645, the deaths and departures to 1,033. The population on 31st December 1876 amounted to 16,166 males and 11,155 females, giving a total of 27,321, and 612 over the population of 1875.

Labour.

Good agricultural labourers would find ready employment throughout the rural districts and receive a remunerative rate of wage if they proved themselves really efficient; this class of labour is more required than any other at the present time, and agricultural labourers would find that after having spent a few years in the Colony in service, being of sober and industrious habits, they would be enabled under the present land regulations to become possessed of land and form homesteads of their own in fee simple, which they never could have done had they remained in the mother country.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports and exports has increased over that of 1875 by imports 36,196*l.*, exports 6,075*l.*; this increase in the value of imports and exports should tend to show the steady and certain advancement of the Colony.

Land Sales.

The revenue from land sales in 1876 has not equalled that of 1875, having fallen below the receipts of 1875 by 2,444*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*; this falling off in the demand for the purchase of land may be attributed somewhat to the fall in the price of wool, which has left less funds in the hands of the settlers to expend in the purchase of land. The land revenue from the rental of Crown lands has increased by 1,326*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* over that of 1875; this would indicate an increased occupation of new country for pastoral purposes, which is extending steadily in an easterly direction. The total quantity of land under rent for agricultural and pastoral pursuits during 1876 exceeds that of 1875 by 3,892,061 acres, a certain proof that the Colony is progressing. It may be said slowly as compared with our more prosperous neighbours, but nevertheless we are doing so steadily and surely, without the periodical fluctuations which the Eastern Colonies are subjected to from their greater wealth and importance.

Agriculture.

The estimated acreage of land under cultivation for the year 1876 has decreased as compared with 1875 by 1,638 acres, and

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although the breadth of land under wheat falls short of that of 1875, the cultivated land under barley and oats has increased. The presence of red rust has of late years prevented the farmers from extending their operations in the cultivation of wheat, a grain more particularly subject to the attacks of this disease. Last harvest it appeared to have almost entirely disappeared, and in consequence it may fairly be anticipated that a large area of ground will be placed under cultivation for wheat during the year 1877. The export of sandal wood has also tended to withdraw the small farmer from the cultivation of the soil; he preferred employing his time and labour in the cutting and carting of this article rather than in the tillage of his land, now the export of sandal wood has considerably reduced, from its low price in the market, and this is certain to lead to the return of the farmer to the culture of his land, and it may be fully expected that a very large increased area of country will be brought into cultivation for agricultural purposes.

Stock.

An increase under the several heads of stock, except in goats, appears over the number in 1875 as follows:—Horses, increase 4,123; horned cattle, increase 3,642; sheep, increase 17,633; pigs, increase 3,688.

Shipping.

The number of ships entered at the several ports of the Colony during 1876 show an increase over 1875 of 19 in number and 12,189 in tonnage. The number of ships cleared gives an increase of 6 in number and 7,776 in tonnage. 11 vessels have been built in the Colony during 1876, being a decrease of 4 on the number in 1875.

Education.

The number of scholars on the rolls attending Government and assisted schools during 1876 was 3,867, the number of schools was 88. The teachers are paid a fixed amount on each pupil that has attended school 180 days in the year, and a further amount by results on examination of pupils under prescribed standards. The Elementary Education Act compels parents under a penalty to send their children to school, the compulsory clauses of the Act are put in force wherever it is possible to do so, and it is hoped this will have a beneficial result in securing the education of the rising generation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. Ô. GRADY LEFROY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Governor Robinson, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Perth.

SPEECH delivered by His Excellency Governor SIR WILLIAM C. F. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., at the opening of the Session of the Legislative Council, Western Australia, Tuesday, 10th July 1877.

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

In meeting you again for the despatch of public business, I am happy to inform you that the condition and prospects of the Colony are, in many respects, satisfactory.

The revenue collected from Colonial sources during 1876 amounted to 147,335*l.*, and exceeded the estimate by 3,085*l.* The total revenue for the 12 months, inclusive of the Imperial grant-in-aid, was 162,189*l.* The actual expenditure for the same period (179,484*l.*) exceeded the estimated expenditure by 6,341*l.* and exceeded the revenue by 17,295*l.*; but the difference was more than met by the balance from 1875, and after providing for the total expenditure of the year, including various unforeseen and unavoidable items, there remained a balance to the credit of the Colony, on the 31st December, of 6,869*l.*

The balance in the chest on the 30th June last was 17,400*l.*, and there is every prospect that it will be larger by the end of the year.

The estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1878 will be laid before you in due course, and I doubt not that you will provide with your usual liberality for the requirements of the public service.

The imports and exports are steadily increasing in value, having risen, the former from 349,840*l.* in 1875 to 386,036*l.* in 1876, the latter from 391,217*l.* to 397,292*l.* during the same period. No better proof could be desired of the healthy condition of the Colony than that which these figures afford, and you will find, on examining the estimate of customs revenue for 1878, that we calculate on a further improvement during the course of the coming year.

The reports of the heads of the various departments for 1876 will be submitted to you, from which you will obtain a clear insight into the departmental transactions of the Government during the period under review.

The report of the Surveyor-General on Crown lands and surveys is, as usual, an interesting document. You will observe that while the revenue from land sales fell short of the amount received in 1875 by 2,444*l.*—a reduction which may be somewhat attributed to the fall in the price of wool—the revenue from the rental of Crown lands shows an improvement of 1,326*l.* as compared with the year preceding, and that if the special receipts for Guano licenses and the rent of certain islands be included, the result gives an increase in the total receipt of the department of 417*l.* over those of 1875.

The total area of land under rental for agricultural and pastoral purposes in 1876 exceeded the area under rental in 1875

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

by 3,892,061 acres, an extension of settlement which testifies to the progress of the Colony. The breadth of land under wheat was smaller than in 1875, but it is to be hoped that the almost entire disappearance of red rust last harvest, and the present low price of sandalwood, may induce the farmer to pay more attention to his land, and that an increased area of country will this season be brought into cultivation. This result is earnestly to be desired, seeing that, although much of our land is as good as any in Australia, we have imported flour and grain to the value of about 40,000*l.* during the last 18 months.

This seems a fitting place to remark that in forwarding to the Secretary of State the report of your Select Committee on the proposed alteration of the Land Regulations, I have supported your recommendation that Regulation 93 may be repealed, or so far modified as to enable the Government to grant such additional grazing rights to small farmers as may be found to be necessary for the permanent settlement of the Colony. Despatches on this subject will be communicated to you.

Another interesting report is that of the Postmaster-General for 1876. Mr. Helmich justly remarks that "there is probably "no department of Government the records of which will furnish "stronger proof of the progress of the Colony, socially and com- "mercially, than the Post and Telegraph Office"; and I feel sure that a perusal of his report, and an examination of the instructive returns which accompany it, will be highly satisfactory to you. You will observe that the local money order system, which was brought into operation on the 1st July last, has made good progress, and that the benefits of the savings' bank system continue to be appreciated by the public. Mr. Helmich remarks that the advantage which has been taken of this system by the public has exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and indicates the confidence which is placed in it, coupled with a conviction of its great usefulness, not only as a ready means of security for money, but also as an inducement to provident habits on the part of the working and other classes of the community. On the 31st December the depositors numbered 1,397, and the total deposit amounted to 25,923*l.*, the proportion of depositors to population being 1 in 20, and the average to each depositor 18*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

From the report of the Colonial Surgeon you will learn that the public health has been exceptionally good, the dry and somewhat protracted winter of 1876 having resulted in an almost entire absence of malaria. The death rate continues low, though on the subject of infant mortality and diseases incident to an inefficient system of surface drainage the remarks of the Colonial Surgeon are deserving of the most careful attention.

The report of the Director of Public Works on works authorised and in progress is satisfactory.

The permanent way of the Geraldton and Northampton Railway has been laid and ballasted for a distance of 14 miles. The Chapman Bridge (the only one of any importance on the line) has been finished. The whole of the sleepers required have been de-

livered by the contractor, and Mr. Thomas is able to report that, after many difficulties and delays, the works on this railway are now in a fair way to completion.

The construction of the Eucla telegraph line has been pushed forward energetically, and there is reason to hope that the working parties of the respective Governments will shortly meet on the frontier. On our side the stations at Bremer Bay, Esperance and Israelite Bay have been opened for communication, and from South Australia the reports of progress are satisfactory. The work would have advanced more rapidly in both Colonies but for the extreme dryness of the season. The Postmaster-General of South Australia states that their operations had to be suspended altogether for several months, and on this side great difficulties have been experienced in the heaviest section of the work, now finished. The Eucla Station, which by arrangement with the South Australian Government is intended for the accommodation of the officers of both Colonies, is in course of construction, and will soon be ready for shipment, when the Superintendent of Telegraphs will leave with the officers for Eucla to open communication between the Colonies. The amount expended on this line up to the 30th June was 33,544*l.* It speaks well for the Colony that we have been able to undertake this heavy work out of current revenue without in any way crippling our resources.

While on the subject of telegraphic communication, I may mention that the report of the Surveyor-General, by whom we were efficiently represented at the Conference which was held at Sydney in January last, will be placed before you, together with further correspondence with reference to the proposed duplication of the Anglo-Australian cable.

As regards minor works, I have to inform you that the leading lights at Champion Bay have been completed and were illuminated for the first time in October; that the iron tower for the light at Point Moore has arrived in the Colony in charge of the mechanic who is to superintend its erection; that the new lighthouse at Fremantle, commenced in August last, and which since then has been carried on by convict labour, is making fair progress; that a new telegraph office has been erected at the Williams; that important additions are being made to the Albany Jetty; and that the steam dredge has been employed on useful work in improving the navigation of the river at Perth and Fremantle. For a complete list of the works undertaken during the course of the year I must refer you to Mr. Thomas's report. I will detain you no longer on this subject than to observe that plans and specifications have been prepared and tenders invited for the construction of a line of telegraph from York to Beverley, and for the building of school houses at Perth, Fremantle, Northam, and Geraldton. For the first-named school house a contract has been taken and the building is in course of erection. A contract has also been taken for the construction of a boat jetty at Owen's Anchorage for the sum of 385*l.*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

In reviewing the transactions of the year I may allude to the negotiations successfully conducted by the Surveyor-General, when in Melbourne, for placing a new steamer on the coast. The vessel engaged by Mr. Fraser is a great improvement on the "Georgette," and is admirably adapted to our requirements, but I regret to learn from the owners that the traffic is far below their expectations, and that unless business improves, or the subsidy be increased by Government, they will be obliged to terminate the contract as soon as they are entitled to do so, namely, at the end of the first 12 months. Under the existing contract the steamer travels some 14,820 miles annually in the conveyance of mails, the average cost of the service, at the present subsidy of 4,200*l.*, being about 5*s.* 8*d.* per mile. It is to be hoped that the mercantile community will be able to throw sufficient business in the way of the steamer to ensure her retention on the coast.

Within the last month a proposal has been made to me by the Banda Steam Navigation Association of Soerabaia to run a line of steamers between Singapore and Fremantle, for a subsidy of 4,000*l.* per annum, the service to be bi-monthly, and for a term of three or five years. The subsidy asked exceeds the amount voted by you for this purpose last session by 1,000*l.* a year, but the offer appears to be so favourable that I will ask you to sanction the additional subsidy required, in the event of our negotiations with the company proving satisfactory. Correspondence on this subject will be presented to you.

In the matter of projected undertakings, I have to inform you that preliminary surveys for the proposed line of railway from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford—being the first section of a future line to the Eastern Districts—have been completed, and that estimates of the cost of the work, with full information on all necessary points, have been forwarded to the Secretary of State. Papers on this subject will be laid before you. The Director of Public Works estimates the cost of the railway by the northern route at 87,098*l.*, by the southern route at 99,121*l.*, and by an alternative route running on the south side of the river from Fremantle to Perth, and on the north side from Perth to Guildford, at 108,125*l.*; and, accepting as approximately correct the estimate of traffic prepared by a select committee of this Council in 1875, and concurred in by a second committee in 1876, he calculates on a balance of 12,616*l.* per annum to the good, after providing for interest and working expenses. I have informed the Secretary of State that for my own part I see no reason to dissent from the estimate of traffic prepared and adopted by your Honourable House, and I have expressed the hope that his Lordship may feel justified in authorising me to proceed at once with this desirable and much needed undertaking. On receipt of his Lordship's reply I shall be prepared to summon a special meeting of Council for the consideration of the legislation which will be necessary in the event of the work being approved.

Further papers relative to the proposed harbour works at Fremantle will be presented to you. The additional information

called for by Sir John Coode in November last has been furnished to him, and I hope to be able to acquaint you with his final opinion on this important question before the end of the session.

Steps have been taken for the representation of the products of the Colony at the forthcoming Paris Exhibition. I trust you will agree with me that it is desirable so favourable an opportunity of drawing attention to our resources should not be lost, and that you will be prepared to place at my disposal a sum sufficient for the purpose.

Correspondence on the subject of immigration will be communicated to you. 170 immigrants have been introduced since the beginning of the year, at a total cost of 3,355*l.*, being at the rate of about 19*l.* 15*s.* per head. I am happy to say that the last batch of immigrants was probably superior to any which preceded it. Full instructions have been given to our agents in London as to the class of persons required, and I need only repeat what I said to you last year, that I shall be prepared to expend your votes for this purpose so long as the new comers find employment in a manner which shall indicate that their presence is required in the Colony. The question of immigration is one which will necessarily occupy my attention in conjunction with that of the proposed line of railway from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford.

Reports from the stipendiary magistrates with reference to the working of the 41st section of the Licensing Act of 1872, as amended by the 39th Victoria, No. 11, together with a memorandum from the Superintendent of Police upon the same subject, will be laid before you. Those who desire the repeal of the amending Act would do well to study these papers with care. They will find therein abundant evidence of the beneficial character of the new clause, and a general concurrence of opinion expressed that it is only the unscrupulous publican who has anything to fear from its operation.

The measures to be presented for your consideration include Bills to amend the Industrial Schools Act; to amend the Imported Stock Act; to make further provision for the maintenance of discipline among prisoners employed outside the walls of a prison; to provide for the more convenient administration of the Extradition Acts of 1870 and 1873; to make further provision for the audit of accounts of Local Road Boards; and to amend the law relating to procedure at the election of members to serve in the Legislative Council, by abolishing proxy voting and substituting voting by ballot.

In framing the Ballot Bill my great desire has been to let the elector feel that perfect secrecy may be relied on, and I believe that the measure, as drafted, will secure this important result. A chart will be laid before you showing the localities at which, under the authority conferred on the Governor by the 6th section of the 33rd Victoria, No. 13, I propose that polling places shall in the first instance be established. It was feared, I believe, that,

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owing to the great extent of our territory, the expense attendan on a system of voting by ballot would be more than the Colony would be justified in incurring for such a purpose; but this I find is a mistake, and that by making use of 32 police stations, 3 telegraph offices, and 4 selected stations, nineteen-twentieths of the whole population will be brought within a radius of not exceeding 15 miles from one or other of the polling places. But even were the difficulties and the cost far greater than we have any reason to anticipate, I consider that the time has come for dealing with this highly important question, and I beg leave earnestly to recommend it to your deliberate and impartial consideration.

Questions connected with the payment of teachers under the Elementary Education Act, and with the sale of Colonial wine, as regulated by the 10th clause of the Licensing Act of 1872, are now under my consideration, and will probably be brought to your notice in the course of the session.

In commending these subjects to your care, I beg to assure you that I shall be prepared to give my best attention to any measures which may be brought forward by Members of your Honourable House; and I earnestly pray that you may be guided by Divine Providence in the performance of the responsible duties which are entrusted to you by the Constitution of the Colony.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1876 AND 1877.

(*In continuation of* [C.—1869.] *of* 1877.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1878.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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1878.

[C.—2149.]

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NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

Governor GLOVER, G.C.M.G., to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, Government House, January 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to send forward a short report on such points contained in the Blue Book for 1876, as tend to show the steadily increasing progress in various enterprises, which mark the general condition of the inhabitants of the Colony as on the whole prosperous in the present, and affording a prospect hopeful for the future.

2. I regret that the Blue Book, which I had the honour of forwarding to your Lordship on the 29th of November, was not placed in my hands earlier than the middle of November, but I would respectfully ask your Lordship's attention to the short but able report of the hon. the Colonial Secretary, to which I deem it unnecessary to add any further remarks, beyond observing that we have added 100 vessels of 4,079 tons burthen to our fishing fleet. These vessels were nearly all built during the later winter months of 1875 and the earlier winter months of 1876, the same men having cut the timber, built the vessels, and afterwards manned them.

3. The aptitude displayed by the people of Newfoundland, the greater number of them being unable to read or write, to take advantage in a rough way of the many natural resources of the country is very remarkable, and when education shall have been applied to instincts so acute and varied, when wholesome competition from without, coupled with scientific knowledge and new capital, shall exercise its influence on the energy and enterprise they display, the rich mineral resources of the Island will be not only developed, but realised, and with these added industries to fall back on, there will then be less fear that in future winters the occasional distress which attends the uncertain results of fluctuating fisheries will occur, and that dread horror, anticipated starvation, now an ever recurring spectre, will haunt the land no more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

C 891. Wt. 14770.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. John's, Newfoundland,
December 15, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1876 with some remarks upon the leading points embraced in its returns.

The trade statistics of the Island for the year show that our imports somewhat exceeded those of 1875, which were the largest on record up to that period. I may remark, however, that the exports were less by nearly $50,000 worth than those of the previous year.

The revenue exhibits an increase of $47,106 upon that of 1875, being for last year $923,530 (exclusive of a loan of $60,000 which was raised for special purposes connected with our public institutions).

The expenditure for the year was $972,693, while that for 1875 was $988,469, but the latter includes the sum of $40,000 expended on the railway survey across the Island from St. John's to Bay St. George.

The state of our trade may be described as having been fairly satisfactory. The seal fishery yielded favourably, the number of seals taken being 346,000, of the value of about 175,000*l.* sterling. The cod fishery on the Newfoundland coast was short of an average catch, while that of the coast of Labrador was a prosperous one. The shortcomings of our shore industry, however, were compensated in a large degree by the very enhanced value of cod fish, which nearly doubled in price within the last 10 years, and as there is a well founded belief that this is now a condition more or less normal, the stability of the trade will be assured by a moderate measure of success in the staple pursuits of the country.

Mining operations proceeded with increased activity during the last year. The export was over 25,000 tons copper ore, and it is confidently expected that this quantity will be doubled in 1877. Several new mineral discoveries are reported, and the whole territory of Notre Dame Bay is attracting the attention of explorers, from the promising nature of the indications in many portions of that locality. In view of the probable increase of trade and population the Government contemplate the extension of our telegraph system to these interesting Settlements, and there seems good ground for the expectation that at no distant day mining industries will occupy a prominent place in the resources of the Island.

Agriculture appears to be steadily progressing and forms a very important element in the support of a large part of the population.

As a rule we find the greatest degree of comfort and independence amongst those of our labouring population who combine the

NEWFOUND LAND.

cultivation of the land with the prosecution of the fishery. In some parts of the Island this is not practicable from want of cultivable land within convenient reach; but the union of both pursuits is so obviously advantageous that this consideration can hardly fail to have much influence upon future settlement.

We are without any returns of the timber cut and manufactured in the Colony, but four or five steam mills are in active work, and investments in this kind of enterprise appear likely to be increased.

Manufactures are advancing, and the fair degree of success that has so far attended these speculations will doubtless lead to their extension in new departments of home industry. Biscuit baking has thriven very satisfactorily, three establishments being now in operation. A boot and shoe factory, the property of a joint stock company, is giving profitable employment to 150 to 170 hands, male and female. Two machine shops and foundries now running, supply all the demand for repairs for steamers belonging to and visiting this Colony, as well as the needs of local manufacturers.

The deposits in the savings bank reached $1,011,880, being an increase of $28,112 over those of 1875.

Regarding educational matters it would be difficult to report in positive terms. The present denominational system may be considered as tentative, and opinions are still divided as to the advantages to arise from the separation lately inaugurated of the Protestant schools. This change involves some considerable increase in the expenditure, the sum of $40,000 being already granted for purchase of the present school property, and the erection of additional school-houses, rendered necessary by the new arrangement. The annual cost of our public schools amounts to the sum of $89,000, the number of schools being 373, including 27 convent schools and 20 schools of the Colonial and Continental Church Society. With the exception of $2,000 contributed by the Colony, these last are sustained by the Society.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. D. SHEA, C.S.

His Excellency
Sir John H. Glover, G.C.M.G.,
Governor.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

Lieutenant-Governor BARLEE to the GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA.

Government House, Belize,
April 2, 1878.

SIR,

I DO myself the honour to transmit for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State the Blue Book returns of this Colony for the year 1877.

Revenue.

2. The principal deficiencies in the revenue were in land sales and rents, in spirits, and in malt liquors. On nearly all other articles the revenue was in excess of that received in 1876, and generally in excess of the estimated amount.

The deficiencies in the three items above alluded to amounted to 1,308*l.*

On the whole the revenue of 1877 exceeded that of 1876 by 1,357*l.*, though it was below the actual sum estimated by 923*l.*

There are grounds for hope that the land revenue may increase, and it may be that a more careful supervision of goods subject to import and excise duties may have a sensible effect on the revenue for the current year.

Expenditure.

3. The actual expenditure in 1877 was 3,300*l.* in excess of that of the previous year, and 1,500*l.* in advance of the estimates for the year. With the exception of about 100*l.* for the services of extra hands for customs purposes, and about 150*l.* for lighthouses, the extra expenditure has been caused by the necessity for immediate and extensive repairs to public buildings, in regard to which I have from time to time fully reported. When remarking on the state of public buildings I will allude to these repairs in detail, and it may suffice to say here, that, on the whole, departmental expenses have decreased as compared with 1876, and that putting aside the unavoidable expenditure above alluded to, and a somewhat increased cost for police, the expenditure for 1877 will compare satisfactorily with that of the previous year.

Public Debt.

4. In this respect the Colony may be considered fortunate; its sole indebtedness at the present time is 5,040*l.* 16*s.*, and there are funds available to pay off this sum so soon as the prescribed time arrives under the provisions of the Local Act 27 V. No. 11.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

5. A heavy burden is borne by the Colony for military expenditure. No less a sum than 7,405*l.* was expended for military services during 1877, and at the latter end of that year a new fort was commenced at Corosal, the cost of which, from 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.*, will fall on colonial funds, and it is no exaggeration to say that at the present time one fourth of the colonial revenue is absorbed for military services.

Militia.

6. There is no militia force, and it is only within the last few months that any desire has been shown to form a corps of volunteers.

At Corosal the first movement has been made, and nearly 150 men of various nationalities have enrolled themselves as volunteers.

Supplies of arms, ammunition, and clothing will be shortly provided, and I trust the corps may become really effective, that the good example set at Corosal may be followed in other parts of the Colony, and that in due course some relief may thereby be given to the heavy expenditure for military services now borne by the taxpayers of Honduras.

Imperial Military Expenditure.

7. The returns rendered by the senior commissariat officer show an expenditure from Imperial funds for all military services in the Colony of 12,665*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, but it must not fail to be borne in mind that at least 5,000*l.* of this amount is provided by the Colony.

Public Works.

8. Of the sum of 4,350*l.* shown in this return 1,000*l.* has been expended in the purchase of a property to be converted into a lunatic asylum, and the rest has been consumed in repairs to public buildings, which should long since have been undertaken. The total sum provided in the estimates for 1877 for repair of all public buildings and for payment of wages was 1,600*l.*, and had I not taken on myself the responsibility of expending far beyond this sum there would hardly have been a public building in a habitable state or an efficient lighthouse on the coast.

In a climate such as Honduras where the public buildings, as a rule, are composed of wood, it is essential that they should be continually inspected and never be allowed to get out of repair.

One piece of decayed wood will, unless it be at once removed, communicate its disease (if the expression may be permitted) all round, and in a very short space of time a large expenditure will be required to do that, which, if taken in time, could be compassed by a moderate sum.

I regret to say that very heavy costs will yet have to be incurred before existing buildings will be in an efficient state, but I hope during the current year to be able to do much towards this end.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The large buildings used for many years as a court house and public offices have been razed to the ground, having been reported in an utterly unsafe condition, and tenders have been invited for the construction of new offices. At present the public offices in Belize are distributed in temporary buildings in various localities. In addition to the foregoing a sum of 363*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* was expended in the repair of the existing roads or rather tracks in various parts of the country. These tracks are in a lamentable state, and much outlay is needed to make them available for anything in the shape of ordinary traffic.

Legislation.

9. The legislation of 1877 requires little comment. The necessary meeting of the legislature shortly after my arrival in the Colony for the purpose of passing the estimates for the current year precluded my bringing forward any measures of importance, though the necessity for many such was apparent. Many valuable suggestions were made, and others suggested themselves to me, some of which it is hoped may be brought under consideration at an early date. An ordinance was passed in January 1877 for the revision, consolidation, and reprinting of the laws, but no action has been taken under it, nor is there the most remote probability that its provisions will be acted on.

It will, in my opinion, be better to bring each subject under one Act, instead of as at present having very many to consult, before any attempt at a reprint is made. This done, and it ought to be accomplished in two or three years, a reprint of the Consolidated Acts will become of great advantage, and, indeed, a necessity.

The ordinance of 1877 for the prevention of the straying in towns of cattle and horses, to which a general opposition among certain classes of the community was shown, has worked well, the evils foretold have proved to be without foundation and nearly all opposition has vanished. The advantages gained in the quiet and cleanliness of the towns (putting aside sanitary grounds), and the safety and comfort to foot passengers, have been so apparent as to cause a general feeling in favour of the new arrangements.

Population.

10. The returns of population are founded on the census of 1871, a copy of which accompanies the Blue Book, but on which it is well to state little reliance can be placed. The inhabitants of British Honduras, or rather a considerable portion of them, composed of various nationalities, are of a migratory character, and it is impossible to arrive at any correct idea of the number of inhabitants at any one time or indeed at any one place.

Spaniards, Indians, Caribs, and others have no idea of the value of a census, would suspect evil intentions if called upon (not to fill in returns, for that they could not do), but to give information for such purposes, and such information as they would give could not be relied on. No one can, I believe, form any accurate

opinion of the number of persons living in the villages bordering on the boundary line, and I am inclined to believe that if I computed the population at 50,000 no person could prove my estimate to be less correct than that shown on the returns, 24,710.

There is no general registry of births or deaths, nor would such be practicable at present, and I have not attempted to show the number of births or deaths, but I have recorded the number of infants baptized by ministers of religion in the various settlements from whence returns have been received, and the number of persons that have been buried with some religious ceremony.

Ecclesiastical.

11. There are only two clergymen of the Church of England in the Colony; both are stationed in Belize, and no attempt has been made at present to commence work elsewhere, or even periodically to visit other parts of the Colony.

Of the Roman Catholic church there are some twelve priests, and churches are established in various parts of the Colony. The priests have considerable influence over the lower classes of the Spanish population and of the Indians located in the Colony, and in a less degree over the Caribs, they are, as a rule, of the order of the Jesuits, men who work hard, live in a very homely way, and in no way spare themselves.

A new establishment is in course of formation by them near the western boundary line of the Colony with a view to civilise the large number of Indians that dwell around. A church and school houses are in course of erection, and it is hoped that an industrial farm on a large scale may be founded. As yet the movement is in its infancy, and I trust shortlyto pay a visit to the locality. The Wesleyans are a numerous body, and there are four clergymen employed in the Colony besides several lay preachers.

They have a very handsome church at Belize in addition to a smaller chapel and places of worship in various parts of the Colony. It is difficult to speak in terms of too high praise of the good done throughout the Colony by this body, and the excellent principles of loyalty and order inculcated and practised by them.

There is one Presbyterian church and minister in Belize, and two Baptist chapels and ministers.

Education.

12. There are 15 schools aided by public funds in the Colony at which there was a daily average attendance of 1,057 scholars during the past year.

The cost incurred by the Colony in aid of these schools amounted to 1,056*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

They are all managed by the ministers of various religious denominations and receive State aid in accordance with regulations framed under a local Act. Shortly after my arrival amended regulations were passed at my suggestion, bringing in a system

of payment by results, a classification of scholars under various standards, and a bonus to teachers for the number of scholars passed under each standard. By a judicious system of prizes for good conduct and regular attendance an identity of interest has been created between parents, teachers, and children from which it is hoped much good may result, and I am glad to report that new schools are springing up in various localities.

Of the 15 schools that received aid from public funds in 1877, nine were in Belize and six in other parts; one Church of England, five Roman Catholic, six Wesleyan, two Baptist, one Presbyterian.

Coins, Exchange, &c.

13. The coinage and exchange are in a very unsatisfactory condition. There is at the present time and has been for some time so great a difficulty in procuring bills for remittance that specie is exported; this has resulted in an absence of all good coin, and it follows that none but depreciated coin is current. Bills on England at 90 days after sight are now disposed of, as a favour, at three per cent. premium and upwards. English sovereigns, and such are rarely seen, are eagerly purchased at five and six per cent. premium, with the current coin in circulation.

No banking establishment exists, such an establishment properly conducted would do much to remedy the present anomalous state of affairs, and it is much to be desired that some attempt may be soon made in this direction.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

14. The value of imports has varied little from that in 1876, but a gradual decrease may be noticed of late years both in regard to imports and exports. The value of the latter is shown to be—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1874 - - -	240,000	0	0
„ 1875 - - -	202,000	0	0
„ 1876 - - -	206,000	0	0
„ 1877 - - -	124,000	0	0

The great decrease in 1877 may be accounted for by the absurd way in which the returns have been framed in former years; they have been made to include as "exports" the value of all goods received at Belize in transit through British Honduras for the various Republics in its vicinity.

The value of these goods are reported to have been—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1874 - - -	107,000	0	0
„ 1875 - - -	110,000	0	0
„ 1876 - - -	102,000	0	0

and should be deducted from the value shown as exports.

There are no accurate means by which I can ascertain the value of such goods in 1877, but assuming them to have been of a like

value to that shown for 1876, it would, if I followed the course hitherto adopted, fictitiously swell the exports of 1877 to 226,000*l.*

It is hopeless, under existing circumstances, to look for increased amounts in imports or exports, but I do not doubt that if means are taken for the establishment of new industries, and there are many which may be profitably undertaken, for the introduction of an industrial class of immigrants, and for better means of communication, that the Colony may rapidly advance into a far more prosperous settlement than it ever can be while its inhabitants adhere blindly to the old modes of livelihood,—the cutting of mahogany and log wood, which day by day become more difficult and costly to obtain, do not increase in value, and, as a matter of course, afford year by year less employment to that class of people whose long apprenticeship to such work has made them disinclined, if not unable, to turn their attention to other industries.

The cultivation of sugar, coffee, rice, and tobacco can undoubtedly be profitably carried on.

Sarsaparilla grows wild as well as the Indian rubber tree, and both these products, though commanding high prices in the English market, are almost neglected.

Shipping.

15. That there has been little difference in the value of imports and exports between the years 1876 and 1877 may be further demonstrated by the close relation of the figures showing the tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared during those years.

1. 1876 - 26,891 entered, 26,590 cleared.
2. 1877 - 26,782 „ 27,079 „

No steamers entered the port of Belize during 1877 other than the monthly mail packet and two of her Majesty's cruisers.

Land.

16. The sale of land during the past year has been on the most meagre scale. One hundred and seventy-one acres only have been disposed of by the Crown. In the absence of immigration it is not likely to increase.

The sum raised as rental for lands has varied little from that in 1876, and amounts in all to less than 500*l.* From both sources a far larger amount should be forthcoming. The Crown holds about one fourth of the land in the Colony. One-half may be said to be in the hands of two large companies who make little or no use of it, and the remainder in the hands of private individuals. In round numbers the acreage of the Colony has been roughly estimated at four million acres. A very considerable portion of this land is of excellent quality in the vicinity of water carriage and would well repay cultivation. Surveys are almost unknown, and any attempt to survey blocks of land with a view to open them up for individual purchasers would be attended with such

BRITISH HONDURAS.

heavy cost as would certainly not be undertaken by private individuals, and would probably not be justified in its results if attempted by the Government.

The large landed proprietors are awake to the desirability of bringing their lands into profitable occupation, and I think they are all prepared to work hand in hand with the Government in any scheme that may be attempted to induce immigration of the right sort, by the ready transfer of land by purchase at a reasonable rate or lease with pre-emptive right at a low rental. The export of good sugar and other products from hence to the United States, and the fact that a small American settlement has proved a marked success, have attracted a good deal of attention to the Colony, and if the acquisition of land was made easy a considerable number of desirable settlers would probably make this Colony their home.

Climate.

17. In any general report on British Honduras the question of climate should not be omitted.

That the climate has been much maligned there can be little doubt. Belize is perhaps the least healthy part of the Colony. Surrounded by mangrove swamps, and at times infested with sand flies and other insects to an extent almost beyond endurance, it is yet a healthy place, and I have never seen Europeans in any tropical climate possess so generally an appearance of such health as they do here.

Yellow fever visited the Colony in 1869; some 30 cases occurred among the European population, but it did not prove so virulent or fatal as in many of the West Indian Islands, nor did it affect the coloured population. Cholera was last prevalent in 1867, when it made great ravages among the coloured population, but did not prevail at all among the Europeans.

Resident medical men agree in classing the climate as superior to Jamaica or other West Indian Islands, but be this as it may, there can be no doubt that away from Belize in the country settlements a totally different climate prevails, and that it is healthy may be gathered from the fact that at the American settlement alluded to where some five or six families have lived for a period of nine years not a single death has occurred, and no illness of other than a temporary nature.

I have thought it right to state this as the Colony bears a very bad character as regards climate. It is tropical and hot, there are very many disagreeable matters to put up with, but on the whole it is a country where Europeans, with reasonable care and steady habits, may live for years in the enjoyment of excellent health, and of this there are numerous instances in all parts of the Colony.

Crime.

18. There is nothing in the gaol returns or those relating to crime during the past year that calls for special remark. The

gaol at Belize is a substantial building, well suited for the purpose, and not likely to require enlargement for some years. Those at outstations are much smaller buildings, but prisoners sentenced to long terms are invariably sent to Belize.

No capital offence was committed during 1877, and only one conviction of manslaughter is recorded.

The summary convictions in 1877 were less than in previous years, but I fear this is more attributable to the laxity of an inefficient police than a reduction in the amount of crime.

Drunkenness here as elsewhere is the main source of crime, and this may it is hoped be in some degree abated by a more stringent form of legislation for the regulation of distilleries which are now broadcast over the Colony almost without supervision.

At the gathering of the lower classes of Spaniards and Indians at Christmas and Easter, a considerable number of deaths it is feared occur from drunkenness and exposure, and it is only by a closer supervision of magistrates and police that the disgraceful scenes that occur can be abated.

Police.

19. The police force is by no means what it should be, the material of which it is composed may by proper arrangement be made well suited to the requirements of the Colony, but it is essential that the force should be commanded by Europeans who will exercise firm discipline and continual supervision. This is specially necessary with respect to the frontier scout force, on the vigilance and activity of which body important results may depend. To put the force on an efficient footing will entail some expense and time, but I trust by the end of the current year to be able to furnish a far more satisfactory report than I am at the present time able to make.

Hospitals.

20. There is only one general hospital in the Colony, it is situate in Belize in a good position, and may generally be considered in fair order and condition; during the past year out of 268 cases treated 34 succumbed, or about 8 per cent. of those admitted; this proportion, apparently large, may be accounted for by the fact that patients from all parts of the Colony are sent to Belize Hospital, many of them having had no medical treatment till they reach Belize, probably too late for recovery.

It is not uncommon for persons "in extremis" to be brought to hospital literally to die, and though it is undesirable to admit such persons, it would in many cases be cruelty to refuse to receive them. A reference to the returns shows a curious absence of fever or those epidemic diseases usually prevalent in tropical climates.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Lunatic Asylum.

21. The present buildings used as an asylum are in every way unsuited to the purposes for which they are employed. No proper supervision can be exercised, and it is difficult to procure the class of persons usually employed as overseers in asylums.

The patients are, however, kept clean and are in good health. No restraint of any kind is used except in urgent cases, and then only during the period a patient may be violent. New buildings are in course of erection in the vicinity of the public hospital. All modern conveniencies and appliances will be available. A closer supervision will be exercised by the public medical officer, and endeavour made to amuse or employ both the male and female patients in such manner as their peculiarities will admit.

The one great difficulty experienced is the means of communication with patients. Among the 15 patients Europeans, Indians, Spaniards, Chinese, Africans, Negroes, and West Indian Creoles may be seen. They cannot understand each other, and the overseers can only make themselves understood by signs. I mention the foregoing to show how difficult it is to treat these poor creatures or to work on their better feelings in the same manner that would be adopted with patients in a well regulated English asylum.

22. In transmitting these Blue Book returns I am painfully aware that they do not contain such information as should be annually transmitted to the Secretary of State either in form or in detail.

It is most difficult to persuade those whose duty it is to furnish the information to take any personal interest in the matter, and having no interest they conceive that to furnish any further information than has been previously given is a pure work of supererogation.

If, however, I am spared to forward the Blue Book returns for the current year, I shall be much disappointed if they do not contain far more information and are in better form than those which I now do myself the honour to transmit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Sir Anthony Musgrave, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Jamaica.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

Governor Sir A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, June 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1877, together with a report upon it by the Commissioner.

2. I may observe that the appropriation of the balance of cash in the chest at the end of 1877, amounting to 1,971*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, which has not suffered any diminution, shall receive consideration on the occasion of a visit which I propose to pay to this Settlement, so soon as the arrival of the Colonial Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor enables me, without inconvenience or impropriety, to leave Jamaica for a week or ten days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS for the year 1877.

Taxation.

The only alteration in taxation during the last four years was the abolition of the 25 per cent. additional duty charged on the amount of all import duties collected, and which under Ordinance No. 1 of 1877, came into operation on the 11th of August 1877.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1877 - - - -	6,298	16	8
1876 - - - -	8,596	9	2
Decrease for 1877 -	2,297	12	6

RECEIPTS of REVENUE for the last four years.

1874.			1875.			1876.			1877.		
£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
7,635	3	10	7,722	13	7	8,596	9	2	6,298	16	8

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

The decrease in the revenue of 1877, compared with that of 1876, arose chiefly from the falling off on the imports—flour, salted meat, molasses, oils, the abolition of the 25 per cent. additional duty mentioned above, the royalty on salt exported, light duty, sales of Government property, and profits from public bank.

The decrease on flour was 258*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, on the 25 per cent. 329*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, on salt 1,079*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, and light duty 398*l.* 18*s.*, making a total of these last-mentioned items amounting to 2,067*l.* 2*s.*

The following schedule of receipts of revenue shows from what the revenue was derived in the two years under comparison.

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the year 1877, in comparison with the preceding year 1876.

Imports.

	1876.			1877.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Alcohol	2	15	0	5	13	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	16	6	6	14	3	5
Bay water	7	0	0	4	0	0
Beans and peas	6	2	3	6	16	7
Bread	26	17	1	25	16	1
Butter	39	2	2	46	7	11
Candles	9	15	2	7	16	8
Cattle	1	13	3	1	11	3
Cheese	9	19	5	14	0	11
Chocolate	5	17	0	6	8	9
Cigars	14	9	10	3	7	2
Cocoa	0	3	7	0	8	4
Coffee	9	13	7	13	9	10
Cordage	1	14	3	4	7	1
Cordials	1	17	6	2	5	0
Corn	15	15	0	19	18	5
Fish, dried and pickled	19	19	1	24	5	4
Flour wheat	575	17	4	347	9	9
Flour rye and corn meal	90	18	0	61	0	3
Lard	51	1	1	41	19	6
Lumber and shingles	31	18	1	28	16	2
Meat, salted or cured	205	15	3	110	8	8
Molasses, syrup, and honey	80	8	6	54	10	11
Oils	71	18	7	20	18	7
Paint in oi	9	3	3	3	12	0
Pitch, tar, and rosin	1	14	0	2	6	0
Raisins, currants, and figs	6	6	0	2	11	9
Rice	55	13	0	65	0	7
Rum, brandy, gin, &c.	532	13	3	529	10	11
Sheep and goats	3	18	0	0	11	0
Soap	20	12	4	27	9	5
Spirits of turpentine	0	6	0	0	1	0
Sugar	176	19	2	180	2	6
Swine	1	12	7	0	7	4
Tea	16	6	0	21	10	6
Tobacco	31	9	10	45	1	10
Wine	15	7	9	35	18	2
Ad valorem duties	650	14	10	744	15	11
25 per cent. on amount of import duties to 11 August 1877	704	18	8	374	19	6
Total	3,524	12	2	2,899	18	0

Other Sources of Revenue.

—	1876. £	s.	d.	1877. £	s.	d.
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported in 1876, 2,030,258 bushels; in 1877, 1,053,507 bushels	2,960	17	9	1,880	18	3
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on cave earth guano	40	18	0	26	12	0
Light duty	946	6	4	547	18	4
Auction duty	34	16	11	121	7	9
Police fines	47	9	9	43	17	6
Fees of office	112	7	11	109	14	4
Postage	39	18	5	41	14	3
Post Office M. O. Commissions	16	14	4	12	4	3
Postage stamps sold abroad	6	1	5	21	8	5
Liquor licenses	100	0	0	100	0	0
Wine, &c., licenses	72	10	0	72	10	0
Dog tax	12	14	9	13	2	6
Seizures	0	8	6	—		
Derelict property	8	7	3	1	7	7
Sales of water from Government tank	9	5	0	1	6	6
Sales of Crown land	26	1	0	21	19	8
Lease of land	3	0	0	3	0	0
Sales of Government property	221	12	1	2	8	0
Public Bank, net profits from 1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877	82	8	1	47	9	4
Interest for one year on 500*l.* on account of late postmaster	30	0	0	30	0	0
Receipt from General Post Office	300	0	0	300	0	0
	5,071	17	0	3,398	18	8
Imports	3,524	12	2	2,899	18	0
Totals	8,596	9	2	6,298	16	8

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
1877	6,305	3	3
1876	7,599	3	7
Decrease for 1877	1,294	0	4

The expenditure for the year 1876 includes a payment of 1,000*l.* of public debt, and which was extinguished during that year.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue of 1877	6,298	16	8
Add balance for 1876	1,978	4	6
	8,277	1	2
Expenditure for 1877	6,305	3	3
Balance available for services of 1877	1,971	17	11

Value of Imports.

Year.	Value.
	£ s. d.
1877 - - -	21,790 2 6
1876 - - -	23,857 13 4
Decrease for 1877 -	2,067 10 10

The imports for 1877 were, from the United Kingdom 3,104*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, from British Colonies 1,174*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, and from foreign countries 17,510*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*

Value of Exports.

Year.	Value.
	£ s. d.
1877 - - -	22,185 0 6
1876 - - -	31,566 16 8
Decrease for 1877 -	9,381 16 2

DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES exported.

Articles.	1877.		1876.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Asses - -	36	105 19 8	—	—
Boat - -	1	12 0 0	—	—
Bones - -	- - -	- - -	21 barrels	4 5 4
Brazilletto - -	2 tons	1 12 0	178 tons	332 19 7
Cave earth - -	266 tons	260 8 4	409 „	818 0 0
Hides - -	42	9 0 0	—	—
Palmetto tops -	60,899	178 10 0	2,500	8 15 0
Salt, coarse - -	952,880 bushels	18,557 10 9	1,726,151	23 252 11 3
Salt, ground -	100,627 bushels	2,377 7 10	304,107	5,702 0 0
Sponge - -	14 bales and lots	45 0 0	101 bales	216 17 5
Sea shells - -	- - -	- - -	79 bushels	119 0 0
Shell work - -	- - -	- - -	1 package	25 0 0
Turtle - -	30	5 0 0	—	—
Turtle shell - -	1 package	60 0 0	—	—
Totals -	- - -	21,612 8 7	- - -	30,479 8 7

The exports for 1877 were 19,554*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* to British Colonies, and 2,630*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* to foreign countries; and which amounts are composed of 21,612*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, as the value of salt and other domestic produce exported, and foreign articles amounting to 572*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* The foregoing comparative statement shows a

falling off in the exportation of domestic produce amounting in value to 8,867*l.*

Shipping.

Year.	No. of Sailing Vessels entered.	Tons.	Steam Vessels Entered.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tons.
1877 - -	326	33,041	18	13,749	344	46,790
1876 - -	406	57,329	16	12,990	422	70,319
Decrease and Increase for 1877 -	80	24,288	2	759	78	23,529

The number of sailing vessels entered in 1877 falls short of that of 1876 by 80 with 24,288 tons, while the number of steam vessels exceed 1876 by two of 759 tons. The total decrease for 1877 amounted to 78 vessels with 23,529 tons.

Public Works.

The only new work constructed during the year under report was building a kitchen at the keeper's residence at the lighthouse, and which cost 40*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* The remaining expenditure under this head was for repairing roads, water tanks, cattle wells, mooring buoys, lighthouse keeper's dwelling, public offices, gaol at Grand Turk, gun carriage, and other miscellaneous works, amounting to 209*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure on finished works was 87*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, and unfinished 162*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, making a total of 249*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

Legislation.

There were only two Ordinances passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1877, viz.:

Ordinance No. 1 *of* 1877.

"To repeal a portion of the Tariff Ordinance No. 2 of 1875," *i.e.*, abolishing the 25 per cent. additional duty on all imports.

Ordinance No. 2 *of* 1877.

"To provide for the appropriation of divers sums of money to be paid from the Public Treasury of the said Islands for and towards defraying the contingent expenses of the said Turks and Caicos Islands."

Principal Government Notices.

There were 16 principal Government notices issued during the year 1877, and were as follows:—

Appointing annual commissioners of salt ponds, poor's house and hospital, lighthouse, and committee of management of prisons and directors of public bank. Proclaiming his Excellency the Governor's assent to Ordinances Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, of

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

1876. Publishing schedule of receipts and expenditure of the public revenue for the year 1876. Publishing balance sheet and statement of the affairs of the Public Bank to 31st December 1876. Notifying the appointment of Mr. C. R. Hinson as a pilotage commissioner in the room of Mr. T. J. Astwood, deceased. Proclaiming Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of Ordinance No. 9 of 1876. Notifying the appointment of A. G. Wynns, Esquire, as coroner at Grand Turk. Proclaiming his Excellency the Governor's assent to Ordinance No. 1 of 1877. Proclaiming Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of Ordinances Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of 1876. Publishing balance sheet of the Public Bank for the half year ending 30th June 1877. Notifying the appointment of Mr. P. E. S. Morrison and Mr. W. B. Godet, as commissioners of pilotage at Cockburn Harbour. Proclaiming Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of Ordinance No. 1 of 1877. Calling for tenders for supplies for the lighthouse at Grand Turk. Calling for tenders for supplies for the poor's house and hospital. Proclaiming his Excellency the Governor's assent to Ordinance No. 2 of 1877. Notifying that J. J. M. Thomson, Esquire, had been appointed to perform the duties of judge during Judge Anderson's leave of absence.

Legislative Board.

No change has taken place in the Legislative Board since its establishment in 1874.

Civil Establishment.

The following changes took place in the Civil Establishment during the year 1877, namely: the appointment of Mr. James Hyatt as lighthouse keeper in the room of Mr. Anthony Selver, who retired on a pension, and the appointment of Mr. A. G. Wynns as coroner for Grand Turk in the room of Mr. T. J. Astwood, deceased.

Pensions.

Pensions which amounted to 848*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* in the year 1876 were reduced to 611*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* in 1877 by the death of Mr. Duncombe, retired and late judge of the Supreme Court, and Mr. T. J. Astwood, who had been receiving a pension for the abolition of the office of clerk of the parish of St. Thomas, but the addition of Mr. Selver to the pension list makes the present expenditure under this head amount to 639*l.* per annum.

Foreign Consuls.

No change occurred under this head during the year 1877.

Population.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the time of taking the census in 1871 amounted to 4,723, but taking into account the births and deaths since, the population would appear to have increased to 5,235. The births, marriages, and deaths

registered for 1877 show 157 births, 22 marriages, and 105 deaths, against 183 births, 34 marriages, and 114 deaths in the year 1876.

Ecclesiastical Return.

No change has taken place with regard to the disestablished and disendowed Church of England in these Islands since my last report. No permanent arrangements have yet been made for its management.

Education.

The six schools receiving Government aid shows the following results as to numbers, viz.: Grand Turk, 178 scholars, being an increase over the year 1876, of 16; Salt Cay 71, the same as in the previous year. Cockburn Harbour 52, a decrease of 34; Lorimers 49, increase of 6; Kew 20, a decrease of 20; Blue Hills 40, a decrease of 53; making the total number of scholars for 1877 to be 410, against 495 in 1876.

The expenditure for education amounted to 169*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* paid by Government, and 31*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* contributed as fees by parents, making a total expenditure of 201*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

Manufactures.

The grinding of salt, used for curing fish, fell off considerably during the year 1877, owing to a deficient crop. The quantity exported in 1877 was 100,627 bushels, valued at 2,377*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, against 304,107 bushels, valued at 5,702*l.*, in 1876.

Only one cargo of cave earth guano of 266 tons, valued at 260*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, was exported during the year 1877, against 409 tons in 1876.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There were 47 persons committed to the common gaol at Grand Turk in 1877 and 2 to the lock-up at Cockburn Harbour, making a total of 49, namely 31 men, 14 women, and 4 juveniles. Of these, 14 were "for safe custody" and 35 "for purposes of penal imprisonment," against 23 men, 7 women, and 9 juveniles committed in 1876. No deaths occurred in the prisons during the year 1877, their sanitary condition being very good. The total expenditure, including salaries of keepers and maintenance of prisoners, amounted to 375*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

The following comparative table shows the number and description of offences committed, number of apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals taking place in the courts of these Islands during the years 1877 and the three preceding years:—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
The number of offences reported to the police	218	216	206	160
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	225	216	206	168

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person -	30	56	50	30
2. For praedial larceny - -	3	—	4	1
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny.	29	21	16	10
4. For other offences - - -	85	72	75	66
Number of convictions in the Supreme Court				
1. For offences against the person -	2	2	—	1
2. For praedial larceny - -	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny.	—	2	—	10
4. For other offences - - -	—	—	—	1
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the police court - - -	63	63	60	46
2. In the Supreme Court - -	—	3	3	6

Poor's House and Hospital.

The number of inmates in the poor's house on the 1st January 1877 was 6, and 11 others were admitted during the year, making a total of 17. Of these 8 died in the hospital and 6 remained at the close of the year. Those who died were generally persons of advanced age and very infirm when they entered the establishment. The cost of the poor house portion amounted to 276*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, being on a daily average $7\frac{2}{9}$ persons at the rate of 15*s.* $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per diem and 2*s.* 1*d.* per diem for each pauper. There were also 9 paupers receiving out-door relief, at a cost of 42*l.* 18*s.*, being a daily average of $8\frac{1}{5}$ paupers at the rate of 2*s.* $4\frac{1}{4}$*d.* per diem and $3\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per diem of each of such paupers. The total cost of pauperism was 319*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* against 404*l.* 15*s.* in 1876; this last sum however included an amount of 18*l.* 15*s.* expended in providing food for destitute persons at the Caicos Islands during that year. In the hospital portion of the establishment there were at the beginning of the year 1877 4 inmates, and 31 added during the year, and of whom 24 were cured and 8 died. Of the diseases of which the 8 died, 1 was chronic dysentery, 3 pulmonary phthisis, 1 anasarca, 2 chronic diarrhœa, and 1 decay of nature. The total number of cases treated was 35.

General Remarks.

The greatly diminished quantity of salt exported during the year under report compared with that of the previous year 1876 was seriously felt by all classes of the community. It restricted the imports and consequently the general consumption both of food and clothing. And it is to be feared, from the present backward state of salt making, that the export of that article will be less than an average during the current year. The average prices obtained for salt were about the same as in 1876, namely, $4\frac{3}{4}$*d.* for coarse and $5\frac{3}{4}$*d.* for ground salt. The sanitary condition of the Settlement has been affected by the prevalence of whooping cough at Turks Islands and some fever at the Caicos Islands, but not attended with fatal consequences.

(Signed) D. T. SMITH, Commissioner.

BAHAMAS.

No. 4.

Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Nassau,
February 28, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Blue Book for the year 1877, which will be transmitted to you as soon as it is completed.

Taxes and Finance.

2. The year 1877 was entered upon with a deficit of 3,000*l.*, and a public debt 6,000*l.* larger than it was in 1876, owing to the heavy deficits which occurred in 1874 and 1875.

3. The principal taxes which were imposed during the session were stamp duties, and also taxes in respect of real property. In the case of the latter, it was provided by the Legislature that a portion of the amount raised should be applied to the paying off of debentures, so that the public credit may be said to be in a better position than before this provision was made.

4. It is hardly necessary to observe that these measures met with some opposition at the time that they were proposed. It was only natural that they should do so, because they embodied a new policy of taxation which had been several times rejected during the last nine or ten years.

5. The geographical position of the Colony is such as to induce me to believe that commerce would be greatly advanced by a considerable reduction of many of the existing customs duties; and with this object in view I am of opinion that the Legislature would be wise if they embraced every opportunity of substituting direct taxes, or municipal rating, for that portion of the indirect taxation which is no doubt detrimental to importers as well as burdensome to the general community.

6. Trade in this Colony is not elastic, and the imports into it are as yet only those required to meet the wants of the inhabitants.

7. If, however, I am right in supposing that by a sensible reduction in customs duties the Bahamas might share in the distribution of manufactures and merchandise to Cuba, Hayti, St. Domingo, and other places, and that vessels other than those which call for, or are chartered for the carriage of, the produce of these Islands, would by such means be induced to come here for provisions and stores, there can be no doubt that the freer the port is made the greater would be the prosperity of the people.

8. Goods are already supplied occasionally *in bond* to vessels in distress, and the shippers give a guarantee that they will not

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be re-landed in the Colony; but the law expressly contemplates that the exportation in bond shall be to some other port, and the loss which now occurs to the revenue should be prevented by requiring a bond from the shipper, which should only be cancelled on certificate of the proper authority that the goods had been landed at the port for which they were destined.

9. The propriety of freeing the port as much as possible is worthy of the most careful consideration and examination, and although I am not in a position to lay it before the Legislature in any definite shape at present, I am convinced that those who have the welfare of the Colony at heart will be wise to advance it towards the consummation I have in view by every means in their power.

10. In the meantime, the operation of the two recent Acts imposing direct taxation should be carefully watched, and opportunity be taken of extending the scope of that for raising a revenue by stamp duties whenever it can be done without detriment to public interests.

Revenue and Expenditure.

11. The receipts in 1877 amounted to 36,661*l.*, which is in excess of the revenue for the preceding year. When it is taken into consideration that by the decision of the Imperial Treasury in regard to the money order system, and the division of postal allowances, the revenue lost about 1,100*l.* in 1877, this result is certainly satisfactory. The expenditure within the year was 36,413*l.*, but there were arrears inherited from past years amounting to about one month's expenses outstanding at its close.

12. I estimate the revenue of 1878 at 37,500*l.*, and as the working expenses of the government will not be much above 36,500*l.*, it may be anticipated that before long the financial difficulties of the Colony will be at an end.

13. I have not arrived at this gratifying conclusion without personally examining all the calculations upon which it is based.

Public Debt.

14. The public debt amounts to 61,161*l.*, and the interest thereon ranges from 4*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.* per cent. The debt of 15,000*l.*, which was redeemable in the middle of last year, was renewed, and the debentures were purchased within the Colony. Several thousand pounds in excess of the amount required were tendered.

Imports and Exports.

15. The value of imports in 1877 was 153,667*l.*, against 153,614*l.* in 1876. In the year 1876 the value of wrecked goods brought into the Colony and re-shipped was greater than in 1877. Last year compares favourably, therefore, with the previous year; and this is satisfactory, considering the very abundant harvest of corn and ground produce which was universal throughout the Islands.

16. The exports in 1877 were valued at 110,931*l.*, against 106,836*l.* in 1876.

17. It is right to remark here that the excess of imports over exports is not exceptional. The difference is more apparent than real, as the *declared* value of the exports is invariably far below their real value in the markets in which they are sold.

18. The value of native produce exported was 82,274*l.* in 1877, and 79,958*l.* in 1876, showing a difference of 2,316*l.* in favour of last year.

	£
1875 - - -	79,571
1876 - - -	79,958
1877 - - -	82,274

19. The following tables show at a glance the comparative values of both imports and exports from and to foreign countries :—

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	38,357	27,050
British North America - - -	—	2,060
British West Indies - - -	5,658	904
United States of America - -	86,834	80,058
Danish West Indies - - -	29	85
Colonies of Spain - - -	817	583
Hayti - - - - -	161	174
San Domingo - - - -	145	17
Vessels in distress - - -	7,479	—
Wrecks - - - -	13,975	—
Derelict - - - -	212	—
	153,667	110,931

20. The increase of value on imports during the year 1877 over that of 1876 may be accounted for as follows :—

Articles.	1876.	1877.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Ale and porter - - - -	934	1,657	723
Bark - - - - -	—	1,050	1,050
Brandy - - - - -	1,082	1,219	137
Bread - - - - -	655	815	160
Coffee - - - - -	4,314	12,059	7,745
Coals - - - - -	162	340	178
Corn, meal, and hominy - - -	5,849	6,688	839
Gin, whiskey, and other spirits - -	430	1,357	927
Meat, fresh - - - - -	326	778	452
Oils, paying 7½*d.* - - - -	1,230	1,515	285
Rum - - - - -	2,011	2,775	764
Sugar, refined - - - -	854	1,893	1,039
Tea - - - - - -	417	522	105
Tobacco - - - - -	3,430	4,031	601
Turtle-shell - - - - -	8	192	184
Ad valorem 20*l.* per cent. - - -	48,808	52,266	3,458
	70,510	89,157	18,647

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21. There has been a diminution in the value and quantity of flour imported, partly owing to good crops on the Out-islands and partly owing to the substitution of corn, meal, and hominy for that article of food. For the last three years the returns are as follows:—

Flour.

Year.	Barrels.	Value.
1875	22,703	23,065
1876	19,939	19,371
1877	14,747	19,007

22. A decrease is shown in the following imports:—

ARTICLES.	1876.	1877.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Alcohol	93	90	3
Bananas	22	2	20
Books, printed	597	432	165
Beans and peas	306	126	180
Butter	4,093	3,387	706
Candles, tallow	325	293	32
Cattle	1,623	1,430	193
Cider	43	—	43
Cigars	317	201	116
Cocoa	760	1	759
Cocoa-nuts	23	12	11
Copper and yellow metal, &c.	352	60	292
Copper, old	7	2	5
Corn	1,166	667	499
Fish, dried	373	331	42
Flour, wheat	19,371	19,007	364
Gunpowder	1,717	41	1,676
Honey	60	—	60
Horses	206	64	142
Hulks and materials of vessels	1,667	783	884
Ice	760	450	310
Lard	1,985	1,966	19
Logwood	2,395	183	2,212
Lumber	2,651	2,525	126
Machinery	702	—	702
Meat, salted	6,411	5,618	793
Melado	2,992	—	2,992
Molasses and syrup	2,410	1,835	575
Nails, iron	843	473	370
Oats and bran	113	95	18
Oils paying 1*s.*	61	32	29
Potatoes, onions and other vegetables	604	549	55
Rice	8,687	3,562	5,125
Railroad iron, old	250	—	250
Shingles not cypress	68	50	18
Soap, common	2,485	1,161	1,324
Sugar, unrefined	12,404	11,875	529
Vinegar	25	—	25
Wood, satin	600	—	600
	79,567	57,303	22,264

Wrecks and Casualties.

23. There was again a diminution in these disasters, as regards numbers and the value of the cargoes landed therefrom, in 1877 as compared with previous years.

		£
1875—Wrecks	11	23,846
Distress	11	3,595
	22	27,441
1876—Wrecks	12	11,658
Distress	7	13,489
	19	25,147
1877—Wrecks	6	13,975
Distress	7	7,479
	13	21,454

Public Health and Temperature.

24. The Colony during the year 1877 was exempt from epidemic diseases of every description, and notwithstanding the unusual heat of the summer and the heavy rainfall of the year (54 inches), the mortality of New Providence and of the Out-islands generally was much below the average of previous years.

25. Yellow fever prevailed at Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Jamaica, and the most rigid quarantine was maintained over vessels from those ports as well as from ports in Cuba.

26. The general returns of births and deaths were as follows :—

BIRTHS.

—	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence	89	79	95	—	—
Out-islands	306	330	297	—	—
	395	409	392	394*	1,590

DEATHS.

—	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence	70	72	63	—	—
Out-islands	93	94	102	—	—
	163	166	165	161*	655

* Assumed as average.

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27. Taking the population as 43,000, the ratio of births for the Colony was—

34·4 per 1,000

And of deaths - 15·23 „

For 1876 the ratio was—

Births - - - 29·2 per 1,000

Deaths - - - 15·4 „

28. From the annexed table, compiled at the Meteorological Office of the Military Hospital, it will be seen that even as compared with 1876 the temperature was excessively high. The total rainfall was 54 inches as compared with 75 inches in the previous year, and the number of rainy days 155 against 109 in 1876.

29. No hurricane visited these shores.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE for 1877.

—	Thermometer.				Rainfall.			
	Max. in the Shade.	Min. in the Shade.	Max. in the Sun.	Mean at 3 p.m.	Rainfall.	No. of Rainy Days.	Max. Fall in 24 hours.	Date.
					inches.			
January - - -	87·0	61·0	141·5	75·0	1·42	12	0·29	9
February - - -	85·4	54·8	148·5	73·0	1·33	12	0·30	16
March - - -	87·8	58·8	148·5	75·0	2·23	10	1·77	21
April - - - -	90·2	60·6	148·5	76·0	4·03	6	1·72	22
May - - - -	96·0	62·2	151·4	79·0	5·61	16	1·52	28
June - - - -	100·2	71·0	155·5	83·0	7·70	12	4·00	30
July - - - -	100·0	68·5	159·5	85·0	6·32	21	1·13	12
August - - -	98·0	72·5	156·5	85·3	8·28	17	2·16	9
September - - -	99·0	73·2	157·0	86·0	4·88	10	2·35	9
October - - -	95·0	71·0	157·2	83·1	4·67	14	1·50	8
November - - -	99·2	60·8	148·2	79·0	5·51	15	1·80	9
December - - -	85·0	60·0	138·5	74·0	2·05	10	1·15	28
Sums - -	1122·8	774·4	1810·8	953·4	54·03	155	19·69	June 30
Means - -	93·6	64·5	150·9	79·4	4·50	13	1·64	—

Salt Trade.

30. The trade in salt is in a depressed condition, though better than during 1875–6. I see no hope of its immediate revival unless salt is shortly admitted into the United States duty free, which appears probable. A fair quantity was shipped from Rum Cay and Ragged Island, but at Long Cay and Inagua the pickle was destroyed by heavy rains in May and June, and at the latter island there has been no salt raked since that date.

31. There are not more than 60,000 or 70,000 bushels of salt in the Colony at the present time. Prices during the greater part of the season were very low, scarcely paying the expenses of raking. The last shipments from Inagua, however, realised from 12 to 14 cents a bushel.

32. The high rate of duty to which I have on several previous occasions referred is still maintained by the United States, as much I imagine to the detriment of their own shipping trade as to the interests of the holders of salinas in this Colony. There is, I am glad to learn, an early prospect of this duty being repealed.

33. The quantity, value, and destination of salt exported in the last five years have been as follows :—

Year.	To United States.	To British North America and elsewhere.	Total.	Value.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	£
1873 - -	698,000	157,000	855,000	11,118
1874 - -	265,194	113,194	378,388	6,184
1875 - -	78,563	188,475	267,038	4,948
1876 - -	93,212	188,552	281,764	4,639
1877 - -	207,110	140,270	347,380	6,476

Sponge Trade.

34. The demand for sponges during the past year was well sustained, and with favourable weather, combined with slight advances in prices of certain classes of sponge, resulted, as is shown in the annexed table, in an increase in quantity of 73 cwt. and in value of 1,131*l.* as compared with the preceding year :—

——	1876.	1876.	1877.	1875.
	cwt.	Value. £	lbs.	Value. £
Boat - - -	203	763	21,853	747
Glove - - -	163	575	20,301	610
Grass - - -	744	1,621	78,956	1,837
Hardhead - -	272	1,241	24,916	1,124
Mixed - - -	—	—	9,873	157
Reef - - -	197	2,373	25,369	2,686
Refuse - - -	203	386	12,039	247
Velvet - - -	477	4,765	48,170	4,100
Wool - - -	427	5,273	62,625	6,500
Yellow - - -	135	340	20,572	500
	2,826	17,337	324,674 = 2,899 cwt.	18,508

35. With the opening of the fisheries off the coast of Cuba, an event which appears to be not far distant, the prospects of the sponge trade would be greatly enhanced, and employment would again be found for many persons who have been reduced to extreme poverty by the loss of the privileges which they enjoyed in connexion with this trade.

Pine-apple Trade.

36. The value of pine-apples shipped in 1877 was 40,331*l.* In 1876 the value was 38,904*l.* The prices obtained in the United States for the first shipments were about the same as last year, from $12 to $16 per 100. This price gradually fell to $6 and $8, and at the end of the season was as low as $3.

37. The entire crop is estimated to have realised something more than that of 1876. The weather during the shipping season

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was favourable, and the fruit kept better after its arrival in New York, owing to the cool weather there.

38. There was but little difference between the prices obtained in England and the condition of the fruit on its arrival in 1877 and 1876.

39. In the United States the fruit is sold from the ship's side, but in England it is removed to the sale-room and sold by public auction. The English system entails considerable expense.

40. The pine-apple preserving companies in Nassau exported a very large quantity of canned pines, some 70,000 dozen, as compared with 12,000 dozen in the previous year.

41. The factories at Governor's Harbour and Rock Sound also packed 11,000 dozen cans of fruit.

42. The total value of preserved pine-apples exported appears to have been 8,316*l.* The prices obtained for this fruit have not as yet, I believe, been as remunerative as was anticipated, and there is a fear that even the present prices may not be maintained.

Oranges, Shaddocks, Bananas, &c.

43. The export of these fruits in 1877 shows a very considerable increase both in quantity and value over that in 1876, arising mainly from an excess in the shipment of oranges and bananas. There was also a large increase in cocoanuts. Bananas and cocoanuts are generally shipped together, and if the growers of bananas wish to find a more certain sale for that fruit they must also raise cocoanuts, which they can easily do in larger quantities. They will thus be prepared to supply vessels calling for cargoes with each kind of fruit in the same proportion as it is supplied in Barracoa, Cuba, and Fort Antonio, Jamaica. Cultivators, by increasing their produce in this direction, would create and foster a regular trade in these two kinds of fruit, which would be most remunerative to them. Treble the quantity of bananas now raised would sell much more readily than the present supply, and vessels instead of proceeding to Barracoa and Port Antonio would obtain cargoes from these Islands. St. Salvador supplies about three-fourths of the bananas exported from the Colony.

44. The returns for 1876 and 1877 were as follows:—

	1876.		1877.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Oranges, *m.* - - -	2,861	3,935	3,217	4,370
Grapefruit and shaddock, *m.* -	173	211	294	384
Lemons and limes, *m.* - -	425	108	493	78
Bananas, bunches - - -	6,801	278	15,593	653
Cocoanuts - - -	2,215	11	10,000	25
	—	4,543	—	5,510

Woods.

45. The export of native woods during 1877 was greater than during 1876.

46. There was a decline in lignum vitæ and bullwood, but, on the other hand, logwood, braziletto, madeira, sabica and satin-wood were shipped in far larger quantities than during the previous year. Logwood and braziletto are now sent exclusively to the United States, whilst almost without exception madeira, sabica, and satin-wood find a market in London.

47. Bahama logwood is small and irregular in shape, but it yields a very fair proportion of dye. It is well known in New York, where it sells at a price not much below that paid for the logwood of St. Domingo.

48. It is probable that during 1878 there will be no diminution in the export of logwood, braziletto, or ebony, although the price in London for the latter variety of wood is very low. The export of sabica, madeira, satin-wood and lignum vitæ is likely, however, to diminish. As a whole, the value of the trade in woods is expected in 1878 to equal that of 1876.

49. The value of woods exported in 1875 and 1876 was 3,036*l.* and 5,158*l.* respectively. In 1877 the varieties, quantity, and value were as follows :—

Woods.		Quantity.	Value.
			£
Braziletto - - - -	tons	207	511
Cedar - - - -	pcs.	794	33
Ebony - - - -	tons	144	553
Lignum vitæ - - -	„	355	650
Logwood - - - -	„	1,235	2,679
Madeira - - - -	pcs.	33	3
Mahogany - - - -	„	1,124	390
Sabica - - - -	„	281	104
Satin - - - -	„	11,233	667
Timbers - - - -	„	2,290	126
		—	5,716

Bark.

50. The prices of bark, cascarilla particularly, are so low in London, the only market, as to afford no encouragement to shippers.

51. The decline in the quantity exported in 1877, as compared with 1876, is owing to this fact.

52. The stock in Nassau is very considerable.

Barks.	1876.		1877.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwt.	£	cwt.	£
Cascarilla - -	1,218	583	514	248
Canella alba - -			55	27
	1,218	583	569	275

Guano.

53. Phosphatic guano was recently discovered by an American visitor on Little Inagua and Eleuthera. This guano, of which I have sent a sample through the Colonial Office for analysis by Professor Frankland, seems to me to be superior to cave earth, which has been valued at from 5*l.* to 10*l.* per ton.

54. It is deposited on the surface of the Islands, and is visible from a long distance owing to its whiteness. It is estimated that there are several thousand tons of it on Little Inagua alone, and there is no reason why it should be confined to that island and Eleuthera. Since I assumed this government I persuaded the Legislature to place a very moderate export duty of 2*s.* a ton on all cave earth and guano.

55. I have on several occasions in my despatches expressed my opinion of the doubtful policy of disposing of these valuable fertilisers. The soil in most of the Islands of this group is scanty, and where it is not scanty it requires frequent renewing.

56. If, therefore, agriculture is to be pursued on any large scale, as I hope it may be, and as it certainly ought to be, deposits and fertilisers of the nature of phosphatic guano and cave earth should clearly be retained within the Colony, unless they exist in such enormous quantities, of which there is no evidence, as to admit of the export of what is not likely to be required for agricultural purposes. Entertaining these views, it is my intention to impose a very high royalty on the export of such of these deposits as may hereafter be discovered on Crown Land.

57. The value of the cave earth exported in 1877 was very small, being only 380*l.*, against 954*l.* in 1876, and 2,096*l.* in 1875. I understand, however, that seven or eight vessels are expected in the course of this year for cargoes of this deposit.

Crown Lands.

58. During the year 1877 there were three auction sales of Crown land, at which 17 country and 14 town and suburban lots were disposed of, comprising 225 acres, and realising 186*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* In addition to these, 33 country and 6 building lots, about 890 acres, have been sold to purchasers and allotted to squatters at the usual upset prices, amounting to 232*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

59. The effort which I set on foot in the early part of the year, by the appointment of a special collector of arrears, has resulted favourably, and, stimulated thereby, the receipts have risen from about 800*l.* to 1,382*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

60. 106 country and 40 town and suburban lots, or about 1,817 acres, have been surveyed, and 271*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* expended during the year, including advances on account of surveys now in progress.

61. Owing to the pressure of business in the Surveyor-General's department consequent upon the effort to collect arrears and to arrange outstanding accounts in connexion with Crown lands, only 32 grants for 687 acres of land, of the value of 265*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, have been made, but a large number are in course of preparation and will shortly be issued.

Mail Service.

62. The mail service is performed by Messrs. Murray, Ferris, and Co., of New York, who employ two very fine steamers of 1,500 and 1,300 tons respectively, the first, the "Carondelet," which runs monthly between New York, Nassau, St. Jago, and Cienfuegos, returning to Nassau; and the second, the "San Jacinto," a side-wheel steamer, running between Savannah, St. Augustine, Nassau, and Havana, once every fortnight, returning viâ Nassau, and forming a connexion at Savannah with New York lines. The annual subsidy is 4,950*l.* per annum, and I have every reason to think the service is a good one, better in fact, taken altogether, than any that the Colony has hitherto had. The present contract lasts for five years from August 1877. The Imperial Government grants 1,000*l.* a year to this service, and without that aid it would be impossible under existing circumstances for the Colonial Government to maintain the frequent and excellent communication which now exists, and which is undoubtedly beneficial to Imperial interests in the Colony.

Legislation.

63. There were 19 Acts passed in the year 1877, the more important of which were as follows:

64. The Real Property Tax and the Stamp Duty Act had for their objects, as has already been stated, as well the initiation of a system of direct taxation as providing an increase to the revenue.

65. The Act by which a fixed allowance to Her Majesty's troops on the station was granted in lieu of the right of obtaining supplies free of duty, whilst tending to check frauds on the revenue, in no way prejudices those who enjoyed that privilege.

66. In civil matters the amendments in the law of England with regard to "limitations of actions relating to real property," the "custody of infants," and the "contracts of infants" have been strictly followed; and in the criminal law, the "False Personation Act" and the "Public Stores Act," repeat the English Statutes on the same subject.

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67. The laws relating to the levying of export duty have been consolidated, and certain amendments relating to Her Majesty's vessels of war have been made, with the concurrence of the Admiralty, to the quarantine law.

68. An Act for the more convenient administration of the Imperial Extradition Acts, upon a model provided by the Colonial Department, has also been passed.

69. No other enactments for the year 1877 call for any observation.

Crime.

70. In 1876, 48 persons were prosecuted in the Superior Criminal Court. During 1877, 43 persons were prosecuted on the same number of informations as in the previous year. The statistics of crime would appear from these facts to be peculiarly exact; but an examination into the character of offences for the past year gives cause for satisfaction.

71. There were no convictions for the graver offences of murder and rape, and only one for manslaughter. Those for offences against the person were for the most part for crimes of no very serious nature, with two or three exceptions.

72. The offences against property, larceny, shop-breaking, &c. were of the most trifling character. For malicious injury to property there were three prosecutions, but no convictions.

73. In 1876 there were 32 persons convicted, whilst in 1877 there were only 21. The Attorney-General, in his report enclosed in my Despatch No. 19 of the 28th January, has shown that this difference is attributable to the fact that no less than 12 cases fell through for want of prosecution, owing to the absence of material witnesses who had been bound over, but who failed to appear at the trial. This failure in the administration of justice will, I hope, be prevented in future by legislation during the present session. In some of the Out-islands I regret to say that predial larcenies are frequent, notwithstanding the additional penalties imposed by 38 Vict. c. 2. Cases of this sort, whilst they are extremely difficult of detection owing to the scattered position of the cultivable plots of ground, are a serious obstacle to the extension of agriculture.

74. I believe there is a very strong feeling throughout the community in favour of the infliction of corporal punishment in such cases. To the worthless and indolent people who commit this class of offence, living as they do at the cost of the honest and industrious labourer, such punishment would doubtless be far less pleasant and very much more deterrent than six or nine months' imprisonment in Nassau Prison.

Gaol.

75. The Provost Marshal's report upon the Nassau Prison has already been forwarded to your Department in my Despatch No. 19 of the 28th January.

76. The total number of prisoners committed to the gaol during the year was 386, of whom 39 were committed for safe custody till trial, or for want of security, and 347 for penal imprisonment. Of the number committed during the year 1877 for penal imprisonment, 14 only were convicted before the Supreme Criminal Court of the Colony, the remainder being convictions for petit larceny, breaches of the peace, and other minor offences before the police magistrate at Nassau and the justices on the Out-islands. These statistics exhibit a marked decrease in the amount of crime as compared with the returns for the previous year, when the total number of commitments amounted to 517, 2 of the number being for debt, 45 for safe custody, and 470 for penal imprisonment.

77. This reduction is owing to a decrease in the number of prisoners received from the Out-islands, 51 being received during the year 1877, as against 101 in the previous year. In 1877 there were 29 commitments for predial larceny, whilst in 1876 there were 70, and in 1875, 84.

78. To the number of convictions before enumerated (14) must be added three convictions remaining untried for the year 1876. No debtor was committed during 1877. Of the 347 prisoners sentenced to penal imprisonment, 53 had been recommitted once, 32 twice, and 143 thrice and oftener.

79. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 83·57, of whom 60·51 were males, 16·10 females, and 6·96 juveniles; the highest number on any one day being 97, and the lowest 66. The daily average for 1876 was 105·10, of whom 72·10 were males, 22·78 females, and 10·22 juveniles.

80. The expenditure of the establishment for 1877, including the salaries of the keeper, chaplain, and all the subordinate officers, amounted to 1,748*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, showing a reduction when compared with the ex enditure of the previous year, which amounted to 2,095*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* As a set-off against this expenditure, there have been employed on the public roads and other public works a daily average of 48 male prisoners, whose labour, if estimated at the rate of 1*s.* 3*d.* per diem each, would amount to 939*l.*

81. The public works on which prisoners are employed are the making and repairing of roads, cleaning drains, sweeping streets, weeding and keeping in order Government House and other public grounds. They have also during the year performed the additional work of scavengering for the city of Nassau. Within the prison walls the male prisoners have been employed in quarrying stone and converting it into macadam.

82. In August last, by my direction, a portion of the female prisoners were put to work on the ginning of cotton, a description of labour which they perform exceedingly well, and although this branch of industrial labour has as yet been conducted on a limited scale, enough has been done to show that if cotton could be obtained in sufficient quantities to keep but one cotton gin con-

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tinuously at work, the toll collected would be sufficient not only to pay the salaries of the matrons, but to defray by more than one-half the other expenditure of this department of the prison. Some 15*l.* has already been received, which represents the labour of five female prisoners on one gin for a period of four weeks. I have caused a notice to be published throughout the Colony to the effect that cotton in the seed will be purchased at the gaol, or that cotton will be ginned at a small charge per lb., and by this means I trust to stimulate industry both outside and inside the prison.

83. Sugar-making was resumed in November, the canes being supplied from that portion of the Government House grounds formerly known as the "wilderness," but which I have converted into an agricultural garden. On the 25th November a ton of canes was ground, the yield of juice being 132 gallons, from which, when boiled, 72 lbs. of sugar and five gallons of molasses were produced. On the 26th November another ton was ground with more satisfactory results, the yield of juice being 148 gallons, of sugar 85 lbs., and of molasses five gallons. I have every reason to be satisfied with these results, feeling certain that they will pave the way to an increased growth of cane, the introduction of larger mills, and the consequent export of sugar.

84. I have already stated that the cost of the prison last year was 1,748*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* It is accounted for as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bread - - - - -	100	13	7
Beef - - - - -	38	19	9
Other provisions - - -	418	1	2
Hospital comforts - - -	44	18	0
Officers' rations - - -	59	12	6
Wood - - - - -	33	8	9
Clothing and bedding - - -	141	4	7
Salaries of keeper, physician, and chaplain - - - - -	225	0	0
Salaries of turnkeys, matrons, overseers, &c. - - - - -	583	8	0
Soap, kerosene oil, tools, utensils, &c., &c. - - - - -	103	5	7
	£1,748	11	11

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Annual cost of each prisoner for food only	7	5	3
Daily cost - - - -	0	0	4¾
Annual cost of each prisoner, including all expenses of establishment - -	21	1	4
Daily cost of each prisoner, including all expenses of establishment - -	0	1	1¾

85. The health of the prisoners generally during the year 1877 was remarkably good. There were 22 admissions to hospital, most of the cases being bowel affections which yielded readily to treatment. No death occurred, and the sanitary condition of the prison could not have been better than it was.

Hospital and Asylum.

86. A full report on the New Providence Asylum for 1877 was forwarded to your department in my Despatch No. 20 of the 31st January.

87. The total number of inmates during the year was 171.

There were admissions - - -	98
„ discharged - - -	75
„ deaths - - -	36

And remaining at the end of 1877,—60, viz.:—

Males - - - - -	37
Females - - - -	23

Classified as follows:—

General paupers and sick - -	36
Lunatics - - - -	17
Lepers - - - - -	7
Total - - -	60

88. The death rate was 21 per cent., which, though very high, is not so high as in the three previous years, when it was—

30 per cent. in 1874.
27 per cent. in 1875.
27 per cent. in 1876.

89. As I have stated already in my Blue Book Report for 1876, the death rate in this institution will be necessarily high, as it is not only an asylum for the aged, decrepit, and destitute, but a hospital for the reception of the worst and most hopeless cases of illness, often in the most advanced stages. Eleven "moribund" cases were admitted in 1877. Paupers dying at their own houses are buried at the cost of the asylum if it is proved to the satisfaction of the commissioners that their relatives are absolutely unable to pay the funeral expenses.

90. In 1873, 74, and 75, the cost of the asylum was between 2,500*l.* and 2,200*l.* a year. It is now only 1,200*l.* a year, and under the careful supervision and management of the commissioners, the efficiency and comfort of the institution are far greater than when the cost to the Colony was for its maintenance double the amount at present annually voted by the Legislature.

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91. The following statement will show the average number of inmates during 1877, and the cost of each per diem :—

STATEMENT showing the AVERAGE COST of each PAUPER per diem.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Provisions - -	635	8	10			
Wines, spirits, &c. -	66	2	7			
Wood - -	22	0	0			
Clothing and bedding	28	14	5			
Miscellaneous expenses - -	57	17	7			
Staff of nurses, &c. -	227	13	11			
				1,037	17	4
Burials - - - -				90	1	1
Out-pensioners in New Providence				32	10	0
Out-island paupers - -				107	19	6
				1,268	7	11
Average number of inmates during the year 1877 - - - -				60		
Average cost of each pauper per diem, for provisions only - - -				$6\frac{3}{4}d.$		
Average cost of each pauper per diem, including provisions and other expenses, but exclusive of superintendent and matron's salary -				$11\frac{1}{4}d.$		

	£	s.	d.
Balance of grant for 1876 - -	68	7	11
Grant for the year 1877 - -	1,200	0	0
	1,268	7	11

Education.

92. During the year ending December 31st, 1877, the number of schools under the Board of Education was 34, attended by 3,037 scholars (about 28 per cent. of the school population), and maintained at a cost of 2,400*l.*

93. The Act granting the sum of 300*l.* in addition to the present grant was suspended two years ago, and consequently the Board has not been able to extend its operations to several districts which very much require its assistance.

94. The isolated position of the various islands and the sparseness of their population render their efficient government and education a matter of great difficulty and necessarily involve a large expense, and although the educational vote is not sufficient to meet the demands made upon it, I do not think any British Colony spends a larger per-centage of its revenue on education than the Bahamas.

95. As regards the state of instruction, the past two years have been years of transition. In October 1875 the Board adopted the "standards of attainments" introduced into the Government schools at home in 1863; and this has completely changed the unsystematic character of many of the schools. The inspector bears hopeful testimony to the satisfactory working of the new system and to the improved educational results which have already accrued, and which are likely to accrue therefrom.

96. In October 1877 a scheme of "payment by results" was adopted at my suggestion, which will be introduced as vacancies occur. Its principal features are the following:—

(1.) Every candidate for appointment has to undergo an examination in arithmetic, reading, spelling, penmanship, grammar, and composition, class teaching, and school management (these subjects are compulsory, and failure in any one excludes a candidate from appointment), Euclid, algebra, history, geography, music, and drawing.

(2.) They receive a certificate of the second, third, or fourth class. Certificates of the first class are awarded for good service only.

(3.) Successful candidates spend a certain time in the Boys' Central School in training.

(4.) They are then appointed and receive permanent salaries as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
First class - -	per annum	40	0	0
Second „ - -	„	30	0	0
Third „ - -	„	25	0	0
Fourth „ - -	„	20	0	0

(5.) At the expiration of three years they may send their certificates, with copies of the inspector's reports, to the Board for revision.

(6.) In addition to the remuneration prescribed above, the following grants are made for each scholar in average attendance:—

		£	s.	d.
First class - -	per annum	0	7	6
Second class - -	„	0	6	0
Third class - -	„	0	5	0
Fourth class - -	„	0	4	0

The class of a school may vary from year to year, according to the results of the annual official examination. To secure a position in the first class it is essential that at least 90 per cent. of the scholars pass in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic, and have some knowledge of grammar and geography. The per-centages of passes in those subjects required for a position in the second, third, or fourth class are respectively 75, 60, and 45.

(7.) The whole of the school fees, 2*d.* per scholar per week, are given to the schoolmaster, and the schools are provided with books and school materials free of cost.

97. Thus in a school with an average attendance of 60 the teacher would be paid as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
If first class—Permanent salary - -	40	0	0
Capitation grant - -	22	10	0
School fees (estimated) -	15	0	0
Total - -	77	10	0

	£	s.	d.
If second class—Permanent salary - -	30	0	0
Capitation grant - -	18	0	0
School fees - -	12	0	0
Total - -	60	0	0
If third class—Permanent salary - -	25	0	0
Capitation grant - -	15	0	0
School fees - -	10	0	0
Total - -	50	0	0
If fourth class—Permanent salary - -	20	0	0
Capitation grant - -	12	0	0
School fees - -	5	0	0
Total - -	37	0	0

98. The new system is very popular with conscientious and efficient teachers, as it will in some cases increase their incomes. It is certain also that under it a greater number of children will be brought within the reach and under the influence of education. There is no lack of applications for the appointments of schoolmaster. These regulations apply only to the 29 schools on the Out-islands.

99. There is, I believe, a general feeling among the members of the Board, of which I propose to avail myself, in favour of compulsory education at the schools in Nassau. If, as I hope, the Legislature will give the Board power to make the education of children compulsory, the great bane of many of the schools, viz., irregularity of attendance, will be remedied. Although the number of scholars present during the year was 3,037, the average daily attendance was only 1,750.

100. The Board's byelaws authorise, where practicable, the establishment of agricultural classes. Small grants, either of Crown land or of money from agricultural funds, have been made by me to the schoolmasters at Harbour Island and Arthur's Town, St. Salvador, and the school gardens at those settlements when last visited by the Inspector were in a very flourishing condition.

Agriculture.

101. Within the last three years considerable progress has been made in agriculture, and the advance has been more marked in 1877 than in the two previous years. It gives me great pleasure to report this fact, and to state that there is also an evidence of more sustained and continuous labour in nearly all the Out-islands of my government. There was a plentiful harvest last year, and the yield of corn and ground produce was abundant, the former selling at 3*s.* to 4*s.* a bushel in Nassau market, whereas

imported corn costs about 6*s*. per bushel. But I am glad to add that the efforts of the people were not solely confined to the growth of produce for their own consumption.

102. The importation of seven or eight sugar mills into the Colony stimulated the growth of cane, and at the very lowest estimate there must have been at least three times the quantity of sugar cane planted in 1877 as in the immediately preceding year. In the Biminis alone, sufficient cane has been raised to feed the mill, imported by the inhabitants, from the end of December last to the beginning of next April. I believe the same remark applies to the Abaco as well as the Harbour Island and other mills. It may be interesting to you to know that since the abolition of slavery, this is the first instance of sugar and molasses having been made in this Colony on any large scale. It is reasonable, therefore, to anticipate that sugar will shortly be added to the exports; and it is already in contemplation to introduce what is known as a four-ton mill into the southern portion of Andros Island, and there to establish a sugar factory, which will undoubtedly be followed by beneficial results.

103. It is estimated that at least 40,000 more cocoanut trees are now growing in the Colony than during the first year of my arrival, and the people very wisely appear to be availing themselves of every opportunity of purchasing seed-nuts for the extension of existing plantations. I have already had samples of cocoanut oil made in the gaol, and at the last Agricultural Show a good sample was received from Alice Town, but the present price of cocoanuts is too high to admit of a profit in the manufacture of oil. Millions of cocoanuts are annually imported into the United States, and a convenient market is therefore open to all in these Islands who are willing to plant them and wait for a few years until the trees reach maturity. At Barracoa also, only 45 miles from Inagua, there is an unceasing demand for a fruit which could easily be furnished by every one of the Windward Islands of this group. Several thousand trees have been set out in Inagua, and the cultivation is extending in that island.

104. In my Despatch No. 44 of the 20th March 1877, I reported that tomatoes had for *the first time* been exported from this Colony in 1876. Last year, owing to the successful result of the experiment to which I have referred, an immense impetus was given to their cultivation. In this Island, at Cocoanut Grove, Jordan, and other places, and at Hog Island, on the other side of the harbour, many thousands of tomato plants have been set out. At Rock Sound also, Harbour Island, and Governor's Harbour especially, where many acres are devoted to the growth of this vegetable, this branch of industry has been largely entered into. Instead, therefore, of the 200 crates which were sent out of the Colony in the season of 1876–7, it is probable that several thousand crates of tomatoes will be exported during the season of 1877–8. With a little care and trouble this industry will be remunerative, and as the tomato is a very favourite vegetable in the

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United States, and cannot be raised there in winter and the early spring as it can be here, there will always be a large demand for it at certain seasons of the year. The Bahama tomato is said to be preferred in America to that grown in Bermuda.

105. The Agricultural Board imported a very large quantity of Madeira onion seed in October 1877, and in a few days it was distributed to ready purchasers. The Madeira onion has been for many years exported to the United States from the Bermudas, but it has never been grown in this Colony until the beginning of last year, when a few were grown at Cat Cay, and sold in Nassau Market at 6*d.* per lb. As upwards of 30 lbs. weight of seed were sown in October, November, and December, the yield of onions compared with what it was last season will in this be enormous.

106. There is still one other progressing industry in which I am much interested, and which I consider one of the most important, viz., the growth of tobacco. A government official (a Cuban), a moiety of whose salary is paid from Crown funds, is now employed in cultivating it, and also in giving instruction in the curing and fermentation of tobacco to any planter who may desire to make himself proficient in this art. Ten acres of land in New Providence have been planted out under the supervision of this officer. On one estate in the Western District, 26,000 plants from 3 to 18 inches in height were a few months ago in a most flourishing condition, and 26,000 more were ready for transplanting. Mr. Druon, the inspector, who has had 15 years experience in the Vuelta Abajo District, is not only sanguine, but confident of success, and I have little doubt myself that in the course of this year tobacco of a fine quality will for the first time be exported by him to the United States market. I am informed that Mr. Druon expects to realise 300*l.* by his crop. In addition to the cultivation of tobacco in this island, it is irregularly raised at all seasons of the year, in the same way as at St. Domingo, in some of the Out-islands. This tobacco is generally coarse and tasteless, and is not really a marketable article. The Agricultural Board, therefore, very wisely discourages this unmethodical system, as they are convinced that an attempt to foist on the foreign market an inferior description of tobacco would not only be improper but disastrous. Their object is to encourage the cultivation of the best description at the best time, namely, the last four months of the year, and thus to establish a reputation for Bahamas tobacco in the American and perhaps even in the Cuban markets.

107. It is satisfactory, in conclusion, to express to you my conviction that the general condition of the people has improved, and that this improvement is in some measure owing to increased industry, coupled of course with good seasons. In 1875 and 1876 numerous applications for help were received from the Out-islands. In 1877 I did not receive one. In 1875, 500*l.* was drawn by the Sharing Societies from the bank in Christmas week. In 1876, 900*l.*, and in 1877, 2,100*l.* That much of this money was reck-

lessly spent I do not doubt, however much I may regret it. I merely quote the figures to prove that the earnings of these classes must have been greater than in the two previous years, and that they obtained in 1877 the means of providing themselves with substantial comforts, had they been disposed to do so, which in 1875–6 they could not have aspired to.

108. I do not at all assert that these questions of fresh industries and increased agriculture have attracted sufficient attention, or have as yet gained sufficient adherents; far from it. There are numbers of young men of the better classes unemployed in Nassau, who, if they had the requisite industry, energy, or courage to meet the difficulties inseparable from such employment, might make a comfortable living by the cultivation of farms on the Out-islands, where cotton, bananas (a very profitable fruit), sugar-cane, and other produce will grow readily, and for which a market will always be found here. And there are many others who, having for a succession of years lost heavily by the growth and shipment of pine-apples, and who ought to turn their attention to something more remunerative than the culture of this fruit, which is easily and more safely produced in Florida, are risking yet another venture upon it.

109. To all of them I would point to the multitude of vegetable growths, where there certainly is safety, and perhaps competence, and to the thousands of acres of good land uncultivated and undeveloped. To those, again, who are still standing aloof from the systematic prosecution of agricultural and pastoral industry, as well as to those who, while bewailing a past prosperity, are doing all they can to discredit any revival of it, I would repeat that the well-being of the Colony depends to a great extent upon the further development of its internal resources and the increase of its exportable produce, and the sooner this fact is practically recognised by all classes, the better will it be for individual as well as for general prosperity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 5.

Governor KORTRIGHT to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
MY LORD, November 22, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship two bound copies of the Blue Book of the Colony of British Guiana for the year 1876, together with a minute of report thereon by Mr. Austin, the Assistant Government Secretary, under whose immediate supervision the book has been compiled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1876.

October 29, 1877.

Finances.

1. The revenues collected in 1876 amounted to 363,807*l.* 19*s.*, being 11,671*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* in excess of the revenue of 1875. This excess is almost wholly due to the increase in the import duties, and may be fairly attributed to the improved state of the sugar market and consequent increased activity in general business.

2. The expenditure in 1876 amounted to 343,734*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, which was less than the expenditure of 1875 by 12,244*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* The principal saving is under the head of Public Works and Buildings, fewer large works having been undertaken in 1876 as compared with the preceding year.

3. The sum of 343,734*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, stated in the Blue Book to be the expenditure of 1876, includes the Colony's proportion only of the immigration expenditure, amounting to 35,619*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; the contribution from the Immigration Fund, which is formed chiefly by means of the indenture fees paid by the planters, and exclusive of the capitation allowance of 2*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* included in the colonial expenditure, the fees for duplicate certificates, the sums deposited for back passages by coolies not yet entitled thereto, and for clothing, amounted to 61,699*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

4. Including the balance of 81,949*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* remaining in the Treasury Chest at the end of 1875, the revenue collected in 1876, the deposits, repayments, and other special receipts, and the planters' contribution to the Immigration Fund, the total amount received at the Colonial Treasury in 1876 was 536,426*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* The total payments, including the general expenditure, repayment of deposits, special payments, and the planters' share of

immigration expenditure, amounted to 434,010*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance carried to the year 1877 amounting to 102,415*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, of which 14,628*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* is available for the general service of the Colony, the remainder being required for services performed, but not liquidated, and to meet the payment of deposits and other special objects.

Local Revenues.

5. The local revenues of the several incorporated towns and villages amounted in the aggregate to 45,877*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure to 47,160*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

The excess of expenditure over revenue was occasioned by the expenditure of New Amsterdam for improvements to the water-works. This expenditure amounted to 2,218*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

Public Debt.

7. The public debt of the Colony amounted on December 31, 1876, to 25,906*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

8. Besides this, there are the following debts guaranteed by the Colony, the security for the repayment of which is ample, namely: for immigration expenses secured on the sugar estates by notes given for indenture fees 203,600*l.*, raised for the corporation of the city of Georgetown 58,951*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, raised for the corporation of the town of New Amsterdam 6,111*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, total 294,569*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

Public Works.

9. The total amount expended upon public works in 1876 was 24,530*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; of this there was expended on sea defences on both sides of the Demerara River 7,674*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* On completion of local telegraph in Demerara, and construction of same in the county of Berbice, 3,812*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* On the water-supply for Georgetown and the estates on the east coast of Demerara and on the east bank of the Demerara River, which expenditure has to be borne by those who are benefited thereby, 1,679*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* On construction of female prison at Suddie, new wooden prison at the penal settlement, and on general repairs to prisons 2,003*l.* 17*s.* On repairs and expenses of the steam dredge for the Demerara River 1,068*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, the balance of expenditure, 8,290*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, being devoted to repairs to public buildings, police stations, hospitals, roads, bridges, and other works.

Legislation.

10. Sixteen laws were passed in 1876.

11. Among the Ordinances enacted in 1876 the following are chiefly to be noticed:—

Ordinance 3, by which the public lunatic asylum is placed under the separate charge of a medical superintendent, and disconnected from the public hospital and almshouse for the county of Berbice, with which institutions it had been hitherto worked under a general board of superintendence. Ordinance 4, by which the Immigration Ordinance of 1873 is amended so as to define more clearly the duration and determination of indentures,

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what constitutes desertion, absence from work, and other offences and to enable the sub-agents of immigration to settle questions of work or labour on the estates without the intervention of the stipendary magistrates.

Ordinance 6, by which the tender of payment in Spanish, Mexican, or Columbian silver dollars ceases to be a legal tender.

Ordinance 7, by which the appointment of an Inspector of Prisons is provided for, and the powers as to punishment by the sheriffs, Inspector of Prisons, and the Superintendent of the Convict Prison are defined.

Ordinance 14, by which a compulsory system of elementary education is established throughout the Colony.

Court of Policy.

12. Mr. H. T. Garnett was elected in the room of Mr. J. Craigen, who resigned on leaving the Colony, and who had succeeded Mr. Bayley, who had previously resigned on leaving the Colony. According to the Constitution the senior member of the court, Mr. W. Russell, retired at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court, but was re-elected a member of the Court of Policy.

Combined Court.

13. Mr. A. Duff was re-elected a financial representative, and Mr. W. Craigen and Mr. E. Stephens were elected financial representatives in the room of Mr. D. C. Cameron, whose term of service had expired, and Mr. S. Booker, who resigned on leaving the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

14. There were several changes in the staff in 1876, owing to death. Mr. Inglis, Colonial Receiver General, Drs. Allison, Stevenson, and Boyd, district medical officers, Dr. Whitlock, surgeon to the almshouse, out-door poor and orphan asylums, and Mr. J. S. Hitzler, Registrar of Demerara and Essequebo, died during the year.

15. The following new appointments and promotions were made during the year 1876. A new office, namely, that of Inspector of Prisons, was created, and Colonel Elliott was appointed thereto. Mr. W. S. Turner was appointed Chief Commissary in the room of Mr. H. Joseph, who died in 1875. Mr. E. H. G. Dalton, Colonial Postmaster, succeeded Mr. J. S. Hitzler as Registrar of Demerara and Essequebo, and Mr. N. D. Davis was appointed Postmaster in place of Mr. Dalton. Mr. J. D. Fraser succeeded Mr. Thierens, who resigned his appointment as Provost Marshal. Mr. Grant, Colonel Foster, and Mr. E. T. Smith were appointed stipendiary magistrates in the room of Mr. J. D. Fraser, Mr. Loughran, and Mr. H. T. Chitty, the two latter of whom had died in 1875. Mr. T. Daly was appointed Inspector of Villages in the room of Mr. Yewens, who retired on a pension. The vacancies caused by the deaths of the medical officers were supplied from the supernumerary staff. Other changes occurred in

the junior ranks of the service, which are detailed in the Blue Book.

Pensions.

16. The names of Mr. J. Elliott, late keeper of the New Amsterdam Gaol, and Mr. E. G. Yewens, late Inspector of Villages, were added to the pension list in 1876. The actual amount of pensions payable out of the Colonial Treasury at the end of the year 1876 was 5,779*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, or an increase of 285*l.* on the previous year.

Population.

17. The total population of the Colony, as given by the last census in 1871, exclusive of the troops in garrison and seamen in the ports of Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and the aboriginal inhabitants, is 193,491.

18. In the return of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths for the year 1876 the estimate of the population on the 31st December 1875 is given as 222,769; to this has to be added the number of immigrants who arrived in the Colony during the year 1876, 3,525, and the number of births recorded, 7,833, making altogether 234,127, from which has to be deducted the number of immigrants who returned to India, 492, and the deaths recorded, 8,270, leaving a total estimated population of 225,365, or a net increase to the population of 2,596.

19. The number of deaths registered, as shown above, was 8,270, whereas the births registered amount only to 7,833, or an excess of deaths over births of 437. The disproportion between the sexes in the Colony to a great degree accounts for this.

20. The general condition of the population is far from what it ought to be; the facilities for existence among the labouring classes, and the enervating influences of a tropical climate, have combined to place them in a much lower position than they should be were they all moderately industrious. There are, however, some of the labouring class who are an exception to this rule, as the steady increase in the deposits in the Government savings banks fairly indicates, there being 132,746*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* deposited at the end of 1876, against 118,306*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* in 1875. The total number of depositors also was increased from 6,788 in 1875 to 7,288 in 1876. The amount carried away in money and jewellery by the people who returned to India in 1876 was 6,209*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

Education.

21. The Ordinances passed at the close of 1876 have placed the system of education on such an entirely new footing that it seems desirable to defer making any remarks on the subject until the new system has been fairly tried.

Trade.

22. The imports of the Colony in 1876 were valued at 1,983,165*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* This is an increase of 146,006*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* as compared with the imports of 1875, which amounted to 1,837,158*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

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23. This increase is chiefly owing to the increased importation of goods paying an ad valorem duty; these imports being valued at 552,027*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* in 1876 and 475,956*l.* 16*s.* in 1875. There was a considerable increase in the value of fish (dried), machinery, malt, manure, oils, and gin imported. The importation of opium also increased from 12,629*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* in 1875 to 19,564*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* in 1876. There was a falling off in the importations of corn and oatmeal, flour, lime (building), pork, rice, and brandy.

24. The value of the exports was 3,031,069*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* in 1876, as against 2,337,121*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* in 1875.

25. The difference in the exports between the two years is accounted for by the increase in the quantity of sugar produced, from 93,938 hogsheads in 1875 to 119,392 hogsheads in 1876, as also by the very considerable rise in the price of this article during 1876. There was likewise an increase in the production of rum, but a decrease in the export of rice, and there was no export of hardwood in 1876.

Criminal Statistics.

26. The number of offences reported has decreased from 20,918 to 19,090, and the number of persons apprehended from 38,594 to 33,476. The number of summary convictions has likewise fallen from 22,763 to 17,549, and the number of convictions in the superior courts has fallen from 279 to 257. It is also to be noticed that the number of convictions under the Immigration Ordinances and the labour laws generally has further fallen from 7,565 in 1875 to 6,341 in 1876.

27. The whole number of persons tried in the superior courts in 1876 was 405, against 426 in the preceding year. Of these 405 persons, 257 were convicted, 128 acquitted (in one case the prisoner was found insane), and 19 cases fell through for want of prosecution. The number of trials for murder was the same as in 1875, 16, of which eight ended in conviction, seven in acquittal, and in one the prisoner was found insane.

Gaols and Prisons.

28. The new prison at Massaruni, containing 100 cells, was completed during the year, and the prison for females at Suddie was likewise completed in 1876.

29. The Capocy Gaol ceased in August 1876 to be the county gaol for Essequebo, all the prisoners being transferred to the new gaol at Suddie, which was then proclaimed to be the county gaol for Essequebo.

Hospitals and Asylums.

30. The total number of patients in the Georgetown Colonial Hospital, including the seamen's ward, at the beginning of 1876 was 484. The total number admitted in the course of the year was 5,334, and the average daily number of in-patients was 458. The total number of deaths was 736. Of these, 76 cases were taken to the hospital in a moribund condition, and, deducting these, the mortality was at the rate of 113 in the thousand, whilst in 1875 the rate was 124 in the thousand.

31. The statistics of the Colonial Hospital at Berbice show the number of patients in hospital at the beginning of the year as 66. There was a slight increase in the number of admissions during the year, 1,123 persons having been admitted in 1876 against 1,108 in 1875; the daily average of in-patients was thereby increased from 61 in 1875 to 67 in 1876. There were, however, fewer deaths during 1876 than in the preceding year, the numbers respectively being 151 and 172. Of these 151, there were 47 moribund cases taken to the hospital, and, deducting these, the mortality was at the rate of 87 in the thousand for 1876.

32. The lunatic asylum, which is now a separate institution and under the charge of a medical officer, Dr. Grieve, has been greatly improved in many respects. The patients are engaged in industrial occupations, and means are provided for their enjoyment and recreation. The report of Dr. Grieve on the institution for the past year is herewith enclosed.

33. The statistics of the lunatic asylum show a total of 103 as the number of persons admitted to that institution during the year. There were 182 patients in the asylum at the commencement of the year. The daily average was 200. The number of those cured or partially relieved and discharged, 27. The number of deaths 43, leaving 215 in the asylum at the close of the year.

Charitable Institutions.

34. The charitable institutions enumerated under this head in the Blue Book are as follows:—

1. General Hospital, Georgetown.
2. Seamen's ward in hospital at Massaruni.
3. General Hospital, New Amsterdam.
4. General Lunatic Asylum.
5. Leper Asylum at Mahaica.
6. Leper Asylum at Kaow Island.
7. Oprhan Asylum and School of Industry.
8. The Saffon School.

35. These institutions are all supported out of the general revenue, with the exception of the Saffon School, which is privately endowed.

36. At the Leper Asylums at Mahaica and Kaow Island the number of inmates at the close of the year was 290, being 45 in excess of the number of inmates in the asylums at the same period of 1875.

37. The principal literary institution in the Colony is the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, situated in Georgetown. A library and reading room is attached thereto, and also a public museum, towards the maintenance of which an annual grant of 416*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is made from the general revenue.

(Signed) CHAS. PIERCY AUSTIN,
Assistant Government Secretary.

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No. 6.

Administrator LABORDE to Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G.

Government House, St. Vincent,
May 10, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1877. Its transmission has been delayed owing to the illness of the Treasury Accountant.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

2. There were no changes under these heads during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The general revenue of the year fell short of that of 1876 by 1,000*l.*, but this cannot be attributed to any particular cause. The expenditure was 800*l.* in excess of the previous year, caused by the undertaking of new public works.

4. The immigration revenue amounted to 3,166*l.* After meeting the current expenses of the Immigration Establishment, and paying off a debt of 1,158*l.* due to the general revenue at the beginning of the year, this fund had 1,635*l.* at its credit at the close of 1877.

5. The debt due to the general revenue by the town of Kingstown, on the loan for its waterworks, was further reduced to 5,743*l.*

6. The Colony is entirely free from debt.

7. The following statement exhibits the assets and liabilities of the Colony at the 1st of January 1878:—

Statement.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
General cash balance -	10,494	2	1	Due Depositors in Savings Bank - - -	5,036	0	6
In hands of Crown Agents	159	12	5	Due Immigration Fund -	1,635	12	0
Advances to be recouped, vizt.:—				Due town of Kingstown current account -	81	17	10
Outstanding on loans to sufferers by flood in 1875 - -	4	0	0	Due Commissioners of Public Lands, &c. -	428	3	10
To town of Kingstown Waterworks account - -	5,825	2	5	Surplus of assets - -	9,301	2	9
	£16,482	16	11		£16,482	16	11

Military Expenditure.

8. Great Britain incurred no expenditure for military purposes in this Colony. A sum of 1,300*l.* was paid, as salary to the Lieutenant-Governor, in aid of the Civil Establishment.

9. The Militia was not called out. A sum of 88*l.* was expended in the supervision and care of the magazine, stores, guns, and small arms.

Public Works.

10. The new line of road through Amos Vale was completed. This work was commenced in November 1875, and has cost 1,825*l.* Two bridges were begun in 1877. The one over the Calliaqua River was nearly finished in the year, and has since been opened for public use. The iron girder bridge for the Colonarie River was imported and conveyed to the spot. The preparations for the excavations for the piers were begun in December.

Legislation, Political Franchise, and Councils.

11. By an Act of the Local Legislature, passed on the 5th day of August 1875, it was declared that the Legislative Assembly, then partly composed of representatives elected by the people, should be absolutely abolished on the publication in the Colony of Her Majesty's confirmation of the Act, and that Her Majesty should thereupon constitute a Legislature for this Government. The Imperial Statute 39 & 40 Victoria chapter 47, having given further legal force to the local Act, it came into full effect and operation on the 6th day of December 1876, when Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 23rd of October of that year confirming it was proclaimed in the Colony.

12. Subsequently Her Majesty, by Her Order in Council of the 7th of February 1877, provided for the creation and establishment of a Legislative Council, to consist of the Governor for the time being, and of such other public officers and persons as she should appoint. To this Legislative Council is confided the power and authority to enact laws for the government of the Colony, subject, however, to their disallowance by Her Majesty, to whom also is reserved the power, with the advice and consent of Parliament, or of Her Privy Council, to make all such laws as may be necessary for the welfare of the Colony.

13. This order was published in the Colony on the 3rd day of December 1877, together with Her Majesty's Letters Patent of the 30th May of the same year, and the Commission appointing your Excellency to be Governor of the Windward Islands, comprising the Governments of the Islands of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Tobago. On the 20th of the same month appointments to the Executive Council, and on the 27th to the Legislative Council, were made, and these Councils were formally constituted under authority of the Order and Letters Patent, and of Her Majesty's instructions under Her sign manual and signet.

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14. Thus the political constitution of the Colony has been changed and remodelled. Legislation by representatives of the people has been entirely done away with, and the Crown has been entrusted with the Legislation for, as well as with the general government of, the Colony.

15. The Legislative Council was not called together for the transaction of business until the present year.

Civil Establishment.

16. There were several changes under this head. Mr. Dundas, the Lieutenant-Governor, was absent from the 8th of March to the 20th of April, and again from the 28th of May to the 15th of December. During the latter period he was administering the general government as Lieutenant-Governor of the Windward Islands. In the absence of Mr. Dundas the administration of this Government was entrusted to me. Mr. Bennett, the Immigration Agent, was sent to fill an office in the Immigration Department in British Guiana, and Mr. N. W. Forster was removed to this island as Agent. Mr. P. F. Huggins was appointed Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the Calliaqua District, and Mr. A. P. Thompson was appointed Revenue Officer in the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Abbott. For 10 months of the year Mr. Choppin, the Attorney-General, acted as chief justice (Mr. Trafford being absent on leave), and Mr. Albert Lewis acted as Attorney-General. Mr. Hawtayne, the Police Magistrate of Kingstown, was promoted to British Guiana, and Mr. Allan Lewis, the Colonial Registrar, was appointed to act as magistrate; Mr. Manning, the Postmaster, being appointed to act as Colonial Registrar, and Mr. Newton Browne as Postmaster. Mr. John A. Harwood, from England, assumed the duties of the Calliaqua Magistracy vacated by Mr. Moylan.

Population.

17. The population seems to be steadily increasing. The last census, in April 1871, gave the number as 35,688. The Registrar-General's report on the registration of 1876 estimated the population, from natural increase, at 39,369. To these figures may be added 708, the increase in 1877, and the population at the close of that year may be put down as 40,000.

18. The birth rate in the year under report was nearly 47 per 1,000, and the death rate nearly 29 per 1,000. There were 97 still births registered as both births and deaths, but those are excluded in calculating the rates above given.

19. The mortality among infants under one year of age was 27 per cent., and among all ages under 15 years it was 53 per cent.

20. The year was a healthy one, and deaths from fever and consumption were fewer. The medical officers reported 1,009 successful vaccinations.

Savings Bank.

21. The number of depositors at the close of the past year was 576, an increase of 50 on the same period in the previous year. There was on deposit at 31st December 5,032*l.* This is a larger amount than in any previous year. The bank is now being very much used; its safety and convenience to depositors being more and more known. It is being utilized for the purpose for which it was intended, that is, as a place of temporary deposit for the savings of the working classes. The bank is open on every Monday and Saturday, and the number of Coolies and native labourers who frequent the office on those days, for the withdrawal and deposit of their savings, is evidence of their increasing appreciation of the institution.

Education.

22. There does not appear to have been any material advance in education. There was an increase of one school and of 32 scholars, but the Government Aid which is given upon the attainment of certain Standards in numbers, and in proficiency, was much less in 1877 than in 1876, indicating that the schools were not so successfully conducted in the latter year.

23. The private contributions were much larger, and were devoted principally to the repair of the school houses.

24. The school fees were less than in the previous year. They are never rigidly exacted by the teachers. Parents are very careless of the education of their children. The demand of the weekly fee of two pence seems to debar many a child from going to school. The number attending the schools cannot represent more than one third of those who are of the age to be there. Children of eight years, and indeed of younger age, are useful to their parents either in home work or in the arrowroot and cane fields. Consequently parents prefer to relieve themselves from labour by the earnings of their children, than to exert themselves for the purpose of earning school fees for keeping them at school. A compulsory education scheme might be a cure, but it would be met with great opposition, and I am not prepared to say it could be enforced.

Shipping.

25. The vessels entered and cleared at the port of this Colony were less in number, in tonnage, and crews, than in 1876. A small steam vessel of nine tons, from England, was entered in the year under report. She is the property of the St. Vincent Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and is intended for the coasting trade. The steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company touch here four times in each month, twice with mails from, and twice to take mails for, Europe. These steamers are not entered in the shipping return. They are exempt from tonnage and port dues under a local Act passed on the first formation of the Company. They formerly brought only small packages, but

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latterly they have been bringing heavy cargoes, and taking away arrowroot.

Imports and Exports.

26. The value of the goods imported for consumption was for duty 132,010*l.*, and free of duty 12,235*l.*; the value of goods for re-exportation was 3,953*l.*, making a total value of 148,198*l.* In the previous year the values were respectively 137,787*l.*, 17,128*l.*, and 7,108*l.*, making a total of 162,023*l.*

27. The value of the exports, the produce of the Colony, was 170,257*l.*, and of other countries re-exported 5,123*l.*, making a total value of 175,380*l.*

28. Among the exports were 750 barrels of whale oil valued at 2,250*l.* This oil is procured by whaling boats belonging to persons in the Island of Bequid, a dependency of this Government. The export of this oil in 1876 was 610 barrels, value 1,830*l.*

Agriculture.

29. The sugar crop of 1877 was smaller than in any of the nine preceding years. The arrowroot, cocoa, and cotton crops were, however, large; and the value of these staples was 166,381*l.*, against 169,629*l.* in 1876. The annexed table shows these productions in the last ten years:—

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Arrowroot.	Cocoa.	Cotton.	Value.
	hhds.	puns.	puns.	barrels.	lbs.	lbs.	£
1868 -	11,248	1,634	1,359	11,799	3,200	46,144	181,686
1869 -	11,150	383	3,783	11,316	10,880	34,048	176,492
1870 -	12,974	2,159	1,639	10,237	6,240	51,520	205,510
1871 -	13,306	2,649	953	10,714	5,680	27,104	243,872
1872 -	11,330	1,920	1,610	11,733	5,760	54,432	227,239
1873 -	9,326	2,550	764	12,352	11,840	33,600	195,452
1874 -	10,242	1,132	887	15,830	9,640	44,576	193,448
1875 -	11,514	2,199	1,336	14,411	6,640	48,608	197,168
1876 -	9,102	1,792	789	15,082	8,800	60,032	169,629
1877 -	8,612	1,713	1,548	17,670	14,784	74,928	166,381

Gaols and Prisoners.

30. The number of prisoners committed to prison in 1877 was 425, in the previous year 420. Of the committals, 74 were for debt and 56 for safe custody for trial on remand, or for want of bail, leaving 295 for penal imprisonment. Of the number committed, 19 per cent. had been once, 13 per cent. had been twice, and 10 per cent. had been thrice or more previously committed. The daily average number in prison was 58. There were four deaths, two of these were from injuries accidentally received while at labour, one was from heart disease, and the fourth suffered death under sentence of the court. The sanitary state of the prison was satisfactory.

31. A schoolmaster attended for an hour and a half on five nights in the week, and on Sunday afternoons, to give instruction

to the prisoners. He is under the direction of the chaplain. Divine service is performed in the prison every Sunday morning.

Criminal Statistics.

32. There were not as many persons brought before the magistrates in last year as in the two years preceding, and there were fewer convictions. In the superior courts there were 18 convictions against 17 in 1876 and 16 in 1875. There were 10 convictions for offences against the person, being twice as many as in the previous year. There were two indictments for murder. A woman was charged with the murder of her stepson, but she was acquitted. A man, a native of Barbados, was indicted for the murder of his wife. He was convicted and suffered death. This crime is of rare occurrence in the Colony. It is seldom that a year passes without a conviction for arson. This crime is one which the lower classes are very prone to commit. Jealousy from one cause or another often prompts the firing of a cottage, or a fit of ill-temper towards a manager or overseer is vented in setting fire to a megas house or cane field. It is often difficult to bring home the offence to the guilty person, and in the last year judgment for the prisoner was recorded in two cases.

Hospital and Asylum.

33. There were 450 persons admitted to the hospital in 1877, and there were 45 patients remaining from 1876, making a total of 495 who were treated during the year; the daily average number having been 48. There were 25 deaths. Ulcer cases were, as usual, the most numerous. There were 61 cases of fever of different types, but only two were fatal. Of 20 patients suffering from phthisis, six died; and there were six deaths out of 36 of diarrhœa and dysentery. Of the number under treatment the mortality was five per cent.

34. In the lunatic asylum there were, on the first of the year under report, 13 patients, and six were admitted in the year. The daily average number under treatment was 12. Six males were cured and discharged, and one died. This latter was a young man of colour, a watchmaker, who was attacked with mania suddenly and only lived about ten weeks. At the close of 1877 there were eight males and six females in the asylum.

35. These institutions are carefully and ably attended by the Colonial Surgeon, Doctor Arnott.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency Governor Strahan, C.M.G.,

&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 7.

Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Barbados, June 12, 1878.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to enclose a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, transmitting the Blue Book of that Island for the year 1877, together with his report thereon.

2. I consider it unnecessary to add to this report any observations of my own, unless it be to bear testimony to the very marked improvement which has taken place in the public institutions of Grenada during the past twelve months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Lieutenant-Governor HARLEY to Governor STRAHAN.

Government House, Grenada,
June 7, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of Grenada for 1877, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. HARLEY,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Governor
Strahan C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the GRENADA BLUE BOOK, 1877.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

1. The tables are set forth in the Blue Book in full detail, and there was no increased taxation during the year under report.

2. The fees of the following heads of departments are paid towards general revenue, viz.: the Lieut.-Governors, the Chief Justice, the Colonial Secretary, and the Provost Marshal.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The total revenue collected during the year amounted to 29,084*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, made up as follows, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs - - - -	13,460	17	1
Tonnage - - - -	689	0	0
Excise - - - -	4,286	7	1
Licenses - - - -	2,498	14	0
Post Office - - - -	331	18	10
Stamp duties, including fees of office -	1,658	14	5
Fines - - - -	632	7	5
Carriacou medical rate and dispensary - with sales of medicines - -	344	4	3
Assessed taxes - - -	4,478	15	2
Miscellaneous - - -	703	19	5
	29,084	8	5

4. The surplus revenue from the previous year, amounting to 1,491*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, was placed to the service of the year, which made an income of 30,575*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

5. The increase of revenue over that of 1876 amounted to 2,797*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, derived principally from the importation of goods from the United Kingdom, and also to a better collection of the excise, and of the assessed taxes.

6. The expenditure of the several establishments was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ecclesiastical - -	1,907	10	6
Legislature - - -	973	8	8
Judicial - - -	4,103	11	7
Civil - - -	4,170	6	6
Education - - -	1,230	14	2
Sanitary - - -	3,852	10	5
Poor relief - - -	2,673	8	4
Police and gaols - -	3,244	0	0
Roads and works - -	4,786	10	5
Inland post - -	379	4	7
Telegraph - - -	560	15	8
Miscellaneous - -	1,699	15	3
	29,581	17	3

7. The increase of expenditure over the year 1876 amounted to 2,857*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, arising principally from sanitary purposes, by the additional appointments of the medical staff, and for the care, maintenance, and medical treatment of the sick in the Colony

GRENADA.

hospital, the poor house, and the lunatic asylum; as also a considerable sum spent on the repairs of the asylum, which were greatly needed; and in providing for the inmates of the public institutions suitable clothing and bedding, &c., &c.

8. The taxation of the Colony for the ordinary purposes of revenue for 1877, the year now under review, is only at the rate of 14*s.* 3*d.* per head of the entire population.

Local Revenues.

9. Consist of the following funds: immigration, harbour, water, lands, and buildings, post office, and education, streets, Colony hospital, and Port of Grenville, all showing a favourable balance, especially the water fund, and in all amounting to 4,614*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, there is but one exception, the Colony Hospital Corporation, which closed the year with a small debt of 19*l.* 4*s.* 2¾*d.*

The Public Debt.

10. There are funds in hand to discharge a liability of 7,000*l.*, raised in July 1858, for immigration purposes, it may therefore be regarded as extinct.

11. It has been necessary, however, to raise a loan of 10,000*l.* for immigration purposes during this year, 1878. And 5,000*l.* additional will be required to give to the town of St. George what it so badly wants—a good and continuous supply of water.

Public Works.

12. The very heavy rains which fell during the year caused many land-slips, which added to the expenditure, and very considerable repairs had to be done to the public buildings, in order not only to preserve them, but save a larger outlay at a future time. A new court house was built at Charlotte Town, St. John's, at a cost of 562*l.*

Legislation.

13. There were only six Acts passed during the year, as legislation was in abeyance pending the proclamation of the New Constitution.

The two most important Acts being, "An Act to provide for "the introduction of a supply of water into the town of St. George," for which the necessary plans, specifications, and estimates have been made by Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C.E., a gentleman sent from England for that purpose, by the Secretary of State, and I am in hopes that the work will be completed by the close of this year or early next. And "An Act to provide medical aid for the labour-"ing population of this Island, and for poor and destitute persons." This Act divided the Island into six parishes, and appointed six medical officers, one to each parish, at a salary of 300*l.* per annum, with two additional at 250*l.* per annum as assistants.

14. Although such a measure was much needed, I regret to have to report that it has not been successful in working. And after a year's experience of its operation, I have felt it my duty to recommend its repeal, and to substitute for it, an Ordinance assimilating the number of appointments and duties of the medical Officers to those laid down under the St. Vincent Medical Acts.

15. There were 11 Proclamations issued during the year, the most, important of which was on the 3rd December, "Publishing "the Queen's Order in Council" creating a Legislative Council "for Grenada, Her Majesty's letters patent constituting the "office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward "Islands, and Her Majesty's Commission appointing George "Cumine Strahan, C.M.G., to that office."

Privy Council and Legislative Assembly.

16. On the proclamation of the new Constitution these bodies ceased to exist, and new Executive and Legislative Councils were appointed under the Queen's Order in Council, dated the 7th February 1877, and the Royal Instructions, dated 30th May 1877. The former consists of the following, viz.: the Lieutenant-Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer. The latter consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, as the official members, and three nominated members appointed by the Queen under Her Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet; viz., Louis Ferdinand Manast, Esquire, William Shears, John Langdon, Esquires.

Civil Establishment.

17. The only addition made was the appointment of medical officers to each district, already reported upon, and the appointment of Colonel Harley, C.B., C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor, in succession to Cyril Graham, Esquire.

Population.

18. The estimated population to the 31st December last was 41,355. There were 1,757 births registered, viz., 916 males and 841 females, being 127 less than in the previous year.

19. The stillbirths numbered 81, giving 1 in every 21 of the living births, the birth-rate exclusive of stillbirths was 41 per thousand. The still births are counted both as births and deaths, deducting these, the death-rate is 28·2 per thousand.

20. The natural increase of births over deaths is 5·23, and the Registrar-General now estimates the population at 41·355 equal to 311 to the square mile.

Education.

21. There is an annual grant made by the Legislature of 1,200*l.* for educational purposes, and the several denominations receive assistance in proportion to the number of schools which are kept up to a certain number of pupils. In all there are 30 schools, including 3 infant schools, under the following heads: 16 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, 9 Roman Catholic, with 2,908 scholars upon the rolls, these schools were maintained at a cost of 1,451*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, of which 210*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* was voluntary contributions. The returns show a proportion of 1 in every 14·5 of the entire population.

22. Notwithstanding these figures, I am of opinion that the results of the present system of education are not satisfactory, and I anxiously await some comprehensive system, which I understand to be under consideration, by which the elementary education of the youth of the Colony may be conducted with more success.

Imports and Exports.

23. An increase of 12,344*l.* in value is apparent in the general imports of the Colony, as compared with the previous year, the principal increase of such imports is from the United Kingdom.

IMPORTS.

	1876.			1877.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - - - -	48,381	15	1	60,201	3	2
British North America - - -	2,299	13	6	1,270	13	2
British West Indies - - -	54,056	2	7	46,724	0	2
United States of America - - -	7,673	7	8	15,268	11	2
Other Foreign countries - - -	2,500	0	5	3,740	10	4
Total - - -	114,860	19	3	127,204	18	0

EXPORTS.

	1876.			1877.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - - - -	157,723	0	8	122,821	4	10
British West Indies - - - -	16,732	18	1	16,043	9	1
United States of America - - -	76	0	0	65	6	8
Other Foreign countries - - -	4,051	8	2	6,976	6	5
Total - - -	178,583	6	11	145,906	7	0

24. The exports show a decrease of 32,677 as against 1876, owing to the want of shipping at the end of the year.

Shipping.

25. The tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony was much in excess of the year 1876.

26. But a great want is felt by the Colony in not having a steamer of about 100 tons, which would carry passengers and cargo coastwise, and I much fear, unless the Government moves in the matter, that anyone will be found in Grenada with sufficient enterprise to undertake it.

Agriculture.

27. The following is a return of the principal items of produce exported from the Colony during the last two years, with their respective values.

Produce.	1876.		1877.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Cocoa - - -	1,725	92,600	1,244	66,782
Cotton - - -	122	4,580	91	3,397
	Gallons.		Gallons.	
Whale oil - - -	3,840	480	6,720	840
Rum - - -	85,775	7,505	53,609	4,690
	Tons.		Tons.	
Sugar - - -	3,152	58,846	2.792	52,127
Spices - - -	16	2,488	19	2,892

There were no grants of land made or sold during the year.

Gaols and Prisoners.

28. A new gaol, which is much required, will be provided during the next year, on Richmond Hill, and will not only furnish better accommodation, but remove the prisoners from St. George which is much to be desired.

29. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 50, and the sanitary state of the prison very satisfactory, but I regret to have to add that the Attorney-General's Report upon the Criminal Statistics of 1877 exhibits a marked increase of crime, showing an increase of 331 offences charged over those of 1876.

Hospitals.

30. The Colony hospital is perhaps one of the best in the West Indies, admirably situated on a hill overlooking the harbour of St. George. With a fresh sea breeze constantly blowing, and an abundance of good fresh water supplied by pipes from Fort George above, while the harbour below affords easy access for sea bathing by a flight of steps for those who are sufficiently strong to bear it.

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31. The daily average of patients was 68, maintained at a cost of 1*s.* 5½*d.* each per day. The total cost of the establishment was, 1,930*l.* 17*s.*11¾*d.*, besides which, arrears from 1876 were paid off amounting to 718*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* A new wing has been opened, thereby adding 22 beds, and an excellent bath room has been added, with fresh water laid on, which was much needed.

32. The Yaws hospital has been much improved, and the patients have been supplied with excellent beds made of cocoa-nut fibre, and sheets and blankets, luxuries hitherto unknown, as well as providing the patients with suitable clothing.

Lunatic and Leper Asylums and Poor House.

33. These institutions have undergone very considerable repair during the past year, and the general condition and treatment of the patients is much improved by affording them better lodgment, clothing, and care, and establishing a system of cleanliness or order, which, even among these poor people, tends to a measure of self respect, which is encouraging, and I take leave to place on record, my appreciation of the attention and humanity which Dr. Messiah the medical officer in charge of these institutions bestows upon the patients.

General Remarks.

34. The health of the Island has been good during the year, with the exception of the parish of St. John's, where there was considerable mortality from dysentery, especially among the very aged and young children.

35. The Colony is decidedly prosperous and the people are contented. As there is a wider distribution of the land among them, the cultivation of cocoa is extending, and gradually supplanting the old staple of sugar, but whether this will have a fresh vitality from the labour supplied from immigration remains to be seen, but judging from the revenue collected in 1877, which is the largest Grenada has known for very many years of her history, and also looking to the value of its imports and exports, I have come to this conclusion.

36. In a small Colony like Grenada, where the population is so limited as it is, I am in favour of this distribution of the land when the labour of the people by their own energy can develop its resources. Whereas, the proprietor often having no capital to employ labour is simply helpless, and the land lays fallow, gradually passing out of cultivation, until at last there is a difficulty in paying the taxes.

(Signed) R. W. HARLEY,
Lieut.-Governor.

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No. 8.

Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Barbados, July 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Tobago for 1877, together with Lieutenant-Governor Gore's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Government House, June 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith in duplicate the Blue Book of Tobago for 1877, together with my report upon it.

2. As I have been only a few months in the Colony, I propose to confine my report to observations upon these statistics, postponing my remarks upon the general condition of the Island until I have made myself better acquainted with the Colony.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

The tariff of customs duties, tonnage and lighthouse dues, and the assessed taxes remained at the same rates as in the preceding year, and no changes were made in the dockets of fees taken by such of the public officers as are wholly or in part paid by fees, whilst licenses of all kinds were left at the same rates as those of 1876.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The yearly statement of revenue shows an increase, when compared with that of 1876, due chiefly to large importations of goods (735*l.*), to an increase in the receipts from fees (223*l.*), whilst the receipts are further swollen by the transfer of 890*l.* from the immigration fund to the general account. These several amounts, together with some minor items of increase, have raised the revenue of 1877 to 13,310*l.*, being 1,519*l.* in excess of that of 1876.

Expenditure.

I regret, however, to have to report that in spite of these exceptionally high figures in customs returns and office fees, and of the transfer to the current account of the immigration fund above referred to, the liabilities incurred exceeded the revenue to

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the extent of nearly 2,000*l.* This excess is chiefly attributable to the increased expenditure caused by the augmentation of the police force; an increase which raised the amount expended in this service from 1,081*l.* in 1876 to 2,009*l.* in 1877. To the cost of feeding, clothing, and guarding the large number of convicts sentenced late in 1876 for rioting (270*l.*); to the unusual charges attending the lodging, medical attendance, and allowances of a detachment of Her Majesty's troops (667*l.*); and to the cost of clothing, drilling, and arming two volunteer corps (490*l.*), added to which an unexpected claim (116*l.*) was rendered against the Colony by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for coals expended in 1876 by H.M.S. "Argus" whilst employed in conveying a detachment of the Barbados police force to and from this Colony, and to a demand from the commissariat authorities in Barbados for the expenses (201*l.*) incurred there on account of the maintenance in Tobago of a detachment of Her Majesty's troops. The expenses in the public roads was also 256*l.* in excess of that of 1876.

Local Revenues.

There are no municipal or parochial bodies in Tobago empowered to raise and appropriate moneys not accounted for in the general revenue of the Colony.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt in Tobago, properly speaking, but the outstanding liabilities detailed under the head of "Expenditure," which of themselves constitute a debt little short of 2,000*l.* Additional taxes have been imposed in order to enable the Government to pay off these arrears, and I trust that by the end of this year a considerable portion of these debts will have been wiped out.

Military Expenditure.

Under this heading will be found the sum of 977*l.*, but of this amount only 285*l.* were paid in 1877, leaving the sum of 692*l.* as a liability in the revenue of 1878, being chiefly composed of bills due to local contractors, and to the arrears due to Her Majesty's Government on account of commissariat charges rendered from Barbados.

Volunteers.

The two volunteer corps enrolled in 1876 have been well kept up, and on the last occasion of Her Majesty's birthday were brigaded with the detachment of regular troops and made a very creditable appearance on parade. The two corps have been united into one regiment which now appears in the army list amongst the other Colonial reserve forces. I think that it will be admitted that much credit is due to the officers and men for their perseverance in keeping up the movement, and that the thanks of the Colonists are due to them for their gratuitous services. In dismissing the subject I would call attention to the fact that the Tobago Rifle Volunteers is the only "volunteer" corps embodied

and fit for duty in the whole of Her Majesty's West Indian Possessions.

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works in 1877 amounted to 650*l.*, whilst that on public roads reached the high figure of 1,256*l.*

In August 1877 a superintendent of public works was sent out from home, and the roads commissioners under whom this large expenditure above referred to had been incurred were abolished.

The new arrangement by which one Government officer is placed in charge of the roads throughout the Colony has been only a short time in operation, and therefore it would be premature to hazard any opinion upon the saving which this change from irresponsible roads commissioners to a responsible superintendent of works will effect in the expenditure upon this head.

Legislation.

During nearly the whole of 1877 the Legislature remained in abeyance, as the Legislative Council and Assembly had abolished themselves in 1876, and as no new Constitution was proclaimed until December 1877, when a short meeting of the Legislature was called, and the following Ordinances were passed, all for the protection of the revenue:—

I.—"*The Land Tax Ordinance,* 1878."

The rates under this Ordinance upon property valued at an annual rental or value of 5*l.* and upwards was increased from 2*s.* to 3*s.* in view of the deficit which I already began to see looming in the future. It is estimated that this increase on the rate will yield between 700*l.* and 800*l.*

II.—"*The License Ordinance,* 1878."

This Ordinance re-imposes the licenses previously existing, with some slight restrictions as to exemptions, reduces the tax on fishermen's boats, and imposes a duty on pistols and revolvers.

III.—"*The* 40 *per cent. Ordinance.*"

This Ordinance merely renews that already existing by imposing 40 per cent. on all receipts under the Tariff Act of 1854.

Council.

On the 5th day of December the form of government which it has pleased Her most Gracious Majesty to substitute for the old Legislative Assembly and Council of Tobago was officially announced, and the new Executive Counil was sworn in—consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor or Officer Administering the Government, and of the public officers lawfully discharging the duties of Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Treasurer—whilst the Legislative Council, which formerly consisted of nine or more members, was reduced to three, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President, no unofficial members having up to that

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time been appointed by the Crown. Early, however, in this year three unofficial members were added to the number of Legislative Councillors.

Civil Establishment.

With the exception of the change of Lieutenant-Governors and the appointment of a superintendent of works, nothing worthy of special remark occurred in the Civil Service of Tobago.

Pensions.

On the 1st of January 1877 Mr. Crooks on retirement from the inspectorship of the police force was placed on a pension of 150*l.* per annum, although he was allowed to retain the appointment of marshal which he had held conjointly with the inspectorship.

A pension of 3*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* is also payable to Flora Robertson under a local Act which compelled persons manumitting slaves to provide for their support by purchasing an annuity from the Colony.

Population.

According to the registrar's estimate there has been an increase of about 1,300 souls since the census of 1871. The unusually large mortality amongst children of tender ages (as disclosed by the registrar's returns), and the remarks of the district medical officers to whom I applied for an explanation of these figures, have led me to the conclusion that a good deal of the infant mortality especially amongst illegitimate children might be checked were better care taken of the children, and greater difficulties thrown in the way of interments. I have therefore instructed the Attorney-General to prepare an Ordinance to amend the Act now in force regulating the registration of burials, from the more stringent provisions of which I hope to see some diminution in these tables; and I have also caused a notice to be widely circulated amongst the labouring people pointing out that the district medical officers are bound to attend children of the poorer classes under the age laid down in the Act, viz., 10 years old, without charging any fee for medical attendance, and have also framed a scale of charges for attendance and medicines under the District Medical Officers Act, 1876.

My attention has also been particularly directed to poor relief. The old system was to pay a lump sum to the marshal who doled it out to the paupers on the poor relief list; but with a few exceptions no pauper got relief, no matter where he lived or how infirm he might be, unless he came into Scarborough himself or sent a messenger for his pittance (usually 2*s.* a month).

It will be apparent,—1st. How impossible it must have been for any but the least decrepit to make long journeys; and 2ndly. How easily the allowance might be drawn long after the pauper had died to whom it had been originally allotted.

The first thing therefore to do was to revise the list and to ascertain the actual number of paupers alive and entitled to pensions, the next was to organise a system of local distribution.

Having obtained a correct list, I then appointed the district medical officers "relieving officers" for their respective divisions, although it formed no part of their duty under the Act creating their offices; and here I am glad to take the opportunity of acknowledging the readiness with which Drs. Anderson and Clark followed the example set by Dr. Purser in voluntarily undertaking these by no means agreeable duties at the request of the Government.

Education.

It was with much pleasure that at the opening of the legislative session of 1878 I was able to refer to the very satisfactory report of the inspector of schools for the year 1877.

The appointment of an inspector was first made late in 1875, when all the schools receiving assistance from the local Government were placed under the supervision of an officer of the Government.

Mr. Fraser's report is eminently satisfactory, as the following extracts from his figures will show, when compared with his report for the preceding year:—

NUMBER and ATTENDANCE of PUPILS.

—	1876.	1877.
Number of children on registers - -	1,895	2,248
Average attendance for the December quarter	914	1,492
Presented for examination - - -	699	1,077

Agriculture.

There are at present 66 sugar estates in cultivation, of which a good many are on the Metayer system. It is to be regretted that the attempt to introduce the cultivation of cotton which the Moravians made during the American Civil War of 1865 was not persevered in by the people. The Colony produces thousands of cocoa nuts, but I do not see that this branch of produce is being extended. The cocoa tree could be grown with great success in the more hilly parts of the Island, but there are only one or two estates in cultivation. The wages paid on sugar estates range from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a day, according to sex, age, and task.

Produce.

The following is a summary of the produce exported as compared with the return given in the preceding year:—

—	1876.	1877.
Sugar - - - -	5,086 hhds.	4,093 hhds.
Rum - - - -	822 puns.	488 puns.
Molasses - - - -	425 hhds.	329 hhds.
Cocoa nuts - - - -	653,390	598,745

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Showing a great falling off in exports, particularly in sugar and rum, attributable to the unfavourable weather at the latter end of the year.

Grants of Land.

The number of acres of ungranted Crown lands does not exceed 2,500; they lie principally in the parishes of St. George, St. Mary, St. Paul, and St. John, on each side of the main ridge of hills which runs from north-east to south-west throughout the Colony; but besides this tract there is a large area of land estimated at some 17,000 acres which has become forfeited to the Crown by reason of being unrepresented or whose owners, if existing, are unknown. These lands have not paid taxes for the last 25 years and more, and might long ago have been escheated to the Crown. Much of the unrepresented land is situated in very hilly and inaccessible (for want of roads) districts, but with a soil and climate like those of Tobago, these tracts might be made to grow coffee, cocoa, arrowroot, and many other tropical products were it possible to induce settlers to come from other parts of the West Indies to cultivate them; such inducements might be found if lands were put up for sale at very low rates or were let upon very low or nominal leases on condition of cultivation.

Gaols and Prisoners.

In 1877 the only gaol in Tobago was filled with the prisoners convicted in the latter part of 1876 of murder and rioting, but although the building is only calculated to hold 53 convicts, it had to accommodate from 80 to 90. Notwithstanding this overcrowded state of the prison, I am happy to say that no unusual amount of disease prevailed, and that when I first visited the establishment in November last it was both clean and, in spite of overcrowding, orderly.

The gaol is also the lunatic asylum, and in addition to the convicts, two dangerous lunatics were confined in it during 1877.

Criminal Statistics.

On the whole, the state of crime, as disclosed in the tables, is not unsatisfactory, comparison being made with the returns of former years. There is a decided falling off under the following heads: "Praedial Larcenies" and "Masters and Servants Act," whilst there is a diminution of exactly one-half upon the average of informations disposed of in the superior courts.

The three years, 1873, 1874, and 1875, have been selected for comparison, and 1876 is excluded on account of the riots which occurred in May 1876, resulting in the conviction at the August sessions of no less than 47 persons.

Steps are being taken to relieve the gaol by the transportation of the six rioters found guilty of murder and by the gradual issue of tickets of leave to such of the remainder as have behaved exceptionally well since their imprisonment.

Hospitals.

The public hospital contains accommodation for 24 patients; in 1877 these beds were full all the year round. The expenditure was at the rate of 25*l.* per caput, whilst that in the pauper asylum, which accommodated nine inmates, was 48*l.* a head, an expenditure which it appears to me is capable of very considerable reduction.

Lunatic Asylum.

There is no lunatic asylum in Tobago. At present there are four lunatics (all dangerous) in durance in the gaol, and there are some four or five more who ought to be locked up, but for whom the law makes no provision, not being "dangerous" lunatics.

An asylum is therefore very much needed, and the law for dealing with lunatics requires amendment. The confinement in a crowded gaol of these madmen is most objectionable and highly prejudicial to discipline, as from the nature of their case they set all rules at defiance.

The Chief Justice writing on this subject says,—

"I most cordially concur with your Excellency that the common gaol is not a suitable place for these unfortunate people. I have more than once raised my judicial voice against the barbarity of this procedure, &c., &c., &c."

The question of preparing without delay some separate place of confinement for the insane is therefore occupying the earnest attention of the Government.

General.

In concluding these remarks upon the Blue Book of Tobago for 1877, I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that the scheme of confederation which Lords Kimberley and Carnarvon pressed upon the attention of the Legislatures of the Windward Islands, and which was only resisted in Barbados, has been frustrated by the opposition of that Colony.

In Tobago, as in St. Vincent and Grenada, I found numerous small establishments kept up at a heavy cost as compared with the numbers of their inmates, which a joint confederation would have done away with, I refer more particularly to prisons, leper houses, and lunatic asylums, whilst a general hospital for eye diseases and other maladies which cannot be properly attended to in these small island hospitals would be an incalculable boon to many sufferers who are now ranked as incurable, but who under proper treatment could no doubt be restored to comparative health and usefulness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS FREDK. GORE,
Lieut.-Governor, Tobago.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
Windward Islands.

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ANTIGUA.

No. 9.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
July 11, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1877, with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ANTIGUA for the Year 1877.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

1. A further reduction was effected this year in the land tax, which is now levied at the rate of 11½*d.* on cultivated, and 4½*d.* on uncultivated land. There has been no change in the rates of the other taxes and duties.

Finance.

2. The revenue for the year was 34,102*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, showing an excess of 2,024*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.* over that of 1876 (32,078*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*). The principal increase was under the head of customs. There was a decrease of 363*l.* 6*s.* 10½*d.* in the land tax owing to a reduction in the rates.

3. The expenditure was in excess of that of the previous year by 1,595*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Expenditure, 1876 - -	33,530	3	10½
„ 1877 - -	35,125	13	4

4. There has been no actual increase in the cost of the civil establishment, the apparent excess of 1,143*l.* under that head, appearing at page 40 of the Blue Book, having been occasioned by the transfer of certain items of service from "miscellaneous" to "fixed establishment":—

	1876.			1877.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fixed establishment - - -	14,479	17	9	15,622	18	6
Miscellaneous - - - -	3,189	11	4½	1,778	16	2½
Total - -	17,669	9	1½	17,401	14	8½

showing a decrease under the two heads of 267*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*

5. There is a decrease in several other items amounting altogether to 531*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*

6. The increased expenditure, amounting to 1,595*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.*, is mainly due to the large sums expended for the repair of the library and treasury, the gaol, and the police station.

7. The revenue is raised in the following proportions, namely :—

Import duty on	articles of food -	26 per cent.
	wine, beer, and spirits -	6 „
	tobacco - -	5 „
	other articles - -	19 „
Excise duty and licenses - -		16 „
Tonnage duty - - - -		3 „
Export duty - - - -		7 „
Stamp duty - - - -		2 „
Land tax for church establishment -		6 „
Other sources of revenue - -		10 „

Public Debt.

8. The public debt of the Presidency on the 31st December 1877 was 58,510*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, against which sum 16,560*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* was invested in the waterworks loan sinking fund.

Public Works.

9. The treasury and library building has been put into a state of thorough repair at a cost of about 1,000*l.* Some minor repairs have been effected to the other public buildings.

Legislation.

10. The Federal Council held a session in Antigua in the month of November, and enacted several useful measures.

11. No local Acts of any importance were passed during the year, legislation being confined to financial and other purely local measures.

Political Franchise.

12. The alteration in the form of Government recently effected in the neighbouring Islands of Nevis and St. Kitts has, not unnaturally, led to the question whether a change in a similar direction would or would not be desirable in the case of Antigua. Those who are opposed to the establishment of a Crown Colony system of Government urge that the single Legislative Chamber, created by the Act of 1866, has worked satisfactorily, and that no sufficient reason can be given for abolishing the elective element in the Legislature. But, on the other hand, it is stated, and the statement is supported by the electoral statistics of the Island, that of late years there has been no true or bonâ fide representation of the people in the Council; that, by reason of the high qualification required for a voter, but a comparatively small number of persons are eligible as electors, and that the return of

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members is thereby restricted to a limited few; and that, in consequence of the want of proper material and for other obvious reasons, it would be impolitic to lower the franchise.

13. There are 11 electoral districts returning the 12 elective members of the Legislative Council.

14. The register shows that there are 310 registered voters for the Island, but, as some are registered as voters for several districts, the number of persons entitled to vote is reduced to 221, 14 of whom do not now reside in the Island. The elective franchise is therefore vested in 207 persons, and of these 131 are registered for the city of St. John's, returning two members, leaving but 76 electors to elect the remaining 10 members. But it must be explained that several of the voters are registered on the qualification of a "10-acre lot," generally a fictitious grant of land made for the sole purpose of creating a vote, and that a large number of the qualified and bonâ fide voters do not, as a rule, take any interest whatever in the elections.

15. No improvement or amendment has taken place in regard to the franchise since the date of my report on the Blue Book for 1873, in which I made the following remarks on the subject:—

"Difficulty is sometimes experienced in getting the full number of elected members in consequence of the paucity of voters in these districts. Double elections, arising from each candidate polling one or two of the only registered voters for the district in the Island, are not of unfrequent occurrence.

"On the occasion of a recent vacancy, in the representation of the division of Popeshead, the returning officer made the following return of the writ:—

"'I do further certify that, at the time and place aforesaid, no candidate was put in nomination, there being no voter at present in the Island qualified to vote in and for the said division.'"

16. The only registered voter for the division of Popeshead died a few weeks after he had elected a member for that division. The member thus bereft of his constituency still holds his seat as a representative of the people.

Population.

17. The number of births registered in 1877 was 1,399, or 223 less than in 1876, and 248 less than in 1875. Of the total births, 139, or 10 per cent., were stillborn.

18. The deaths were 1,628, or 292 more than in 1876, and 231 more than in 1875.

19. The registrar-general reports that the excess of deaths over 1876 is fully accounted for by the long continued prevalence of dysentery and diarrhœa of a severe type, the deaths under Class 7 (which includes these diseases) having been 598 as compared with 259 in the preceding year.

20. The death rate for the year was 4·6 per cent.

21. The birth rate was 4 per cent., and of the total births 987, or 70·5 per cent., were illegitimate.

Savings Bank.

22. The transactions of the savings bank are shown in the following abstract:—

1877.	Received from.	Paid to.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash balance on 1st January - -	216 1 4	—
Deposits at interest - - - -	400 0 0	2,200 0 0
Expenses - - - - -	0 1 0	76 8 1
Interest - - - - -	128 7 8	446 8 0
Antigua Treasury (interest) - -	397 2 7	—
Depositors - - - - -	6,389 7 0	4,516 13 3
Cash balance on 31st December - -	—	291 10 3
	7,530 19 7	7,530 19 7

Education.

23. The system of elementary education established by the Federal Act of 1874 continues to work most satisfactorily. A copy of the report of the Inspector of Schools for 1877 is annexed.

Imports and Exports.

24. The value of imports for 1877 was 170,693*l.* against 133,502*l.* in 1876, and 180,363*l.* in 1875. The value of exports was 210,365*l.* against 136,393*l.* in 1876, and 249,667*l.* in 1875.

25. The quantity of sugar shipped was as follows:—

		£ s. d.	
1875 - -	14,677 Hhds. valued at	13 10 0	a Hhd.
1876 - -	8,327 „	14 0 0	„
1877 - -	10,002 „	17 0 0	„

Shipping.

26. The following is a comparative statement of the shipping for the years 1876 and 1877:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1876 - -	342	23,004	351	22,363
1877 - -	356	25,511	362	25,794

Agriculture.

27. The quantity of land returned as cultivated during the year 1877 was 19,508 acres, and of uncultivated land 43,705 acres.

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28. The average rate of wages earned by agricultural labourers in the Presidency is about 1*s.* a day for men, and 8*d.* for women.

29. In consequence of the scarcity of labour on sugar estates, caused to a great extent by the emigration of a large number of labourers to other Islands, in search of higher wages, an application was made to the Government in the early part of the year to obtain a party of immigrants from Barbados. The attempt was not, however successful, the rate of wages offered, 1*s.* a day for men and 8*d.* a day for women, not being sufficient to induce the Barbados labourers to leave their homes.

30. The crop of the present year, which is now about half reaped, will be a fair average one, and the prospects for 1879 are very encouraging.

Criminal Statistics.

31. The following is a comparative statement of the criminal statistics for the past four years:—

Commitments.

1874	1,475	1876	909
1875	843	1877	914

Commitments by Superior Courts.

1874	48	1876	28
1875	29	1877	21

Summary Convictions.

1874	4,337	1876	2,432
1875	2,635	1877	2,319

Recommitments.

1874	639	1876	515
1875	475	1877	456

32. The daily average number of prisoners in gaol for the past four years has been as follows:—

Year.	No. of Prisoners belonging to Antigua.	No. of Prisoners from other Islands.
1874	101	7
1875	66	12
1876	77	20
1877	74	30

Charitable Institutions.

33. The charitable institutions of the Presidency consist of a poor house, a lunatic asylum, a leper asylum, and a hospital. These institutions, which are known as "the Holberton institution," are all under the same management, and are in a creditable state of efficiency.

34. There were 125 inmates of the poor house on the 31st December, in addition to whom a large number of persons receive outdoor relief.

35. The lunatic asylum, which has for the past few years been used as a general asylum for the Colony, contained on 31st December, 47 inmates, 14 of whom were from other Islands. Considerable improvements have recently been effected in the asylum, including the establishment of a separate ward for convalescents, which has greatly assisted in the cure of the patients. The number discharged as cured in 1877 was 8, and the number of admissions was 18.

36. The average number of inmates of the hospital, during the year 1877, was 125. The number of admissions was 515. The hospital was, by an Act passed in 1873, made available for all labourers on sugar estates, in consideration of which an export tax of 1*s.* a hogshead is levied. The institution has been greatly improved of late years, under the able direction of the medical officer, and is now in a very efficient condition.

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
President.

REPORT of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS for the LEEWARD ISLANDS for 1877.

SIR, Antigua, December 31, 1877,

I HAVE the honour to forward you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my report for the year 1877 on the Elementary schools of the Leeward Islands, which are aided or supported by the Government. This constitutes the third annual report since the coming into operation of the Education Act of 1874.

2. There is added to this report in Appendix my special report on the schools in Barbuda, which Island I visited in September at the request of his Excellency the Governor.

3. I am happy to be able to report that during the past year, steady progress has been made in elementary education, not only throughout the Colony in general, but also in every Presidency, without any exception.

ANTIGUA.

4. This may be seen from the following tabulated statements, which I have carefully drawn up:—

Name of Presidency.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.		
		On the Books.	Present on Inspection.	In average Attendance.
Antigua - - -	36	3,012	2,546	2,013
St. Kitts - - -	25	2,427	1,927	1,558
Dominica - - -	22	1,675	1,322	1,022
Montserrat - - -	10	836	689	511
Nevis - - -	9	880	753	564
Virgin Islands - -	9	456	357	277
Totals - -	111	9,276	7,594	5,945

5. In spite therefore, of the prevalence of much sickness during the year—

1. The average number of names of scholars in the books of the 111 schools of the Colony was 83·5.

2. Of the 9,276 scholars whose names were on the books, 7,594 were present on the day of inspection, being 1,649 more than the average daily attendance. This is an indirect proof of the correctness of the annual returns of the daily average attendance which are forwarded to the inspector, and which form his basis for calculating the amount of the capitation grant to be paid to each school. It shows, too, as has been pointed out by the Inspector of Schools in Jamaica, that the annual Government inspections are regarded with interest by the scholars and their parents and guardians; and also that the teachers and managers seem to be increasingly anxious to have their schools presented to the Government Inspector in the best possible manner.

3. The general average attendance in each school throughout the Colony was 53·5.

4. The general average attendance in each school in Nevis was 62·6, being the highest in any Presidency, followed, however, very closely by St. Kitts.

5. The general average attendance in the Virgin Islands was 30·7, being the lowest general average attendance in the schools of any Presidency.

6. Reference will be made hereafter to the increased average attendance, this being a much safer criterion than the number of names of scholars in the books, or even than the number of scholars present on the day of examination. In fact, the number of names on the books may sometimes be altogether misleading, since in one school which I visited, the number of names in the book was 41, and the daily average only 12—the one number bearing no proper proportion whatever to the other.

6. Again, the schools of the Colony in general, classified according to the Government standards, stand thus;—

Year.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Failed.	Total.
1875	3	8	33	81	125
1876	5	12	45	42	104
1877	7	19	48	37	111

7. Here we notice an increase each year in the number of schools in *each class* respectively; and a corresponding decrease in the number of schools which, having failed, were either struck off the list, or recommended for exceptional aid.

8 Of the 81 schools which thus failed in 1875, no less then 34 were struck off the list, as being either superfluous or absolutely worthless, leaving 47, which were recommended for exceptional aid.

9. This latter number was reduced in 1876 to 42, and this year still further reduced to 37, which number includes 12 new schools which have been placed on the Government list and recommended for exceptional aid

10. The steady and marked advance of so many schools from the failed to the class list is most encouraging, and shows the determination of teachers of zeal and ability to raise their schools to the required standards. Thus the cause of education is greatly benefited.

11. Furthermore, I find that many managers, now thoroughly acquainted with the Government standards, hold preliminary examinations of their scholars, to test their capabilities and to prepare them for the Inspector's visit. The results of some such preliminary examinations, which have been shown to me, were almost identical with the results of the Government inspection.

12. I may here remark that I have always been kindly received, and in some cases assisted in the work of inspection, by both managers and teachers of schools of every denomination.

13. I have drawn up a tabulated statement for 1877 similar to those which I inserted in my report for last year.

14. This statement compares favourably with that for 1876, and still more favourably with that for 1875.

For 1875.

Name of Presidency.	Number of Schools examined.	Daily average Attend-ance.	Number of Schools passed.	Number of Schools failed.	Number of Schools recom-mended.	Number of Schools struck off the List.
Antigua - -	45	1,830	20	25	12	13
St. Kitts - -	26	1,327	13	13	8	5
Dominica - -	23	600	8	15	10	5
Montserrat - -	12	448	0	12	7	5
Nevis - -	9	406	3	6	4	2
Virgin Islands -	10	324	0	10	6	4
Totals -	125	4,935	44	81	47	34

ANTIGUA.

For 1876.

Name of Presidency.	Number of Schools examined.	Daily average Attendance.	Number of Schools passed.	Number of Schools failed.	Number of Schools recommended.	Number of Schools struck off the List.
Antigua - -	33	1,390	23	10	8	2
St. Kitts - -	25	1,525	20	5	4	1
Dominica -	21	894	10	11	11	0
Montserrat - -	8	460	4	4	4	0
Nevis - -	8	493	5	3	2	1
Virgin Islands -	9	275	0	9	7	2
Totals -	104	5,537	62	42	36	6

For 1877.

Antigua - -	36	2,013	28	8	8	0
St. Kitts - -	25	1,558	20	5	5	0
Dominica - -	22	1,022	14	8	7	1
Montserrat - -	10	511	4	6	6	0
Nevis - -	9	564	7	2	2	0
Virgin Islands -	9	277	1	8	8	0
Totals -	111	5,945	74	37	36	1

15. In comparing these three tabulated statements it may be seen—

1. That though the Education Act contains no clause making the attendance of children at school compulsory, yet there has been a steady increase in the daily average attendance.

2. Thus, in 1877 there were in daily attendance at school 1,010 scholars more than in 1875.

3. So too there as been a general increase in the number of schools which have come up to the Government standards and obtained places in the class list.

5. Thus, in 1875 only 44 schools passed the examination, being about 35 per cent. ; whilst in 1877 no less than 74 obtained classes, being over 66 per cent.

5. This large increase in the daily average attendance is most satisfactory, as is also the advance of so many schools from the failed to the class list.

6. Aid being granted to the schools according to the results of the examination, the schools are worked up to the Government standards. Thus the children are better educated than formerly, and the parents seeing this, gladly send their children to schools where they can obtain the advantages of a good elementary education.

7. It may also be seen that there has been a large decrease in the number of failed schools, which in 1875 amounted to no less than 81, but in 1877 to only 37, and of these 12 were new schools recommended for exceptional aid.

ANTIGUA.

8. The number of schools which were deemed superfluous or worthless, and as such struck of the Government list, has decreaed from 34 in 1875 to 6 in 1876, and to 1 in 1877.

9. In 1876, out of 104 schools which were examined, 6 were struck off the list, leaving 98 schools at the beginning of this year in receipt of Government aid. Since that time 13 new schools have applied for aid, making a total number of 111 schools now in the Government list.

10. Of the 13 new schools, 5 are in Antigua, 1 in St. Kitts, 1 in Dominica, 2 in Montserrat, 2 in Nevis, and 2 in Virgin Islands. Further allusion will be made to them hereafter.

Having alluded thus briefly to the schools of the Colony in general, I now proceed to make a few remarks upon the schools in each Presidency.

ANTIGUA.

1. The Mico school still maintains its high character, and takes its place at the head of the list in order of merit.

2. Next follow no less than five Moravian schools in the first or second classes.

3. Of these, Green Bay school, owing to the careful supervision of the manager, the Reverend John A. Burkley, and to the zeal and ability of the well-trained teachers, now for the first time takes its place as one of the chief schools in the Island

4. I report too with great satisfaction that no less than eight schools advanced into a higher class.

5. Five new schools have been placed on the Government list, and recommended for exceptional aid. Of these we may hope that the cathedral school will in due time develop into one worthy of its name and importance.

6. I regret that the Roman Catholic school in St. John's is still closed. There is a probability, however, that it will be re-opened next year.

7. When Her Majesty's fleet lay at anchor off St. John's Harbour, the Admiral, Sir Cooper Key, expressed a desire to visit and inspect some of the elementary schools in the Island. I therefore conducted his Excellency to the Mico (undenominational) and Spring Gardens (Moravian) schools in St. John's. The great interest he evinced in each class and in each branch of study was most encouraging to the managers, teachers, and scholars.

8. A late inspector of schools in Antigua, now a beneficed clergyman in England, writes to me thus: "I have seen a great "many schools lately of various kinds, but I have not often met "with agricultural schools which, on the whole, were better of "their kind than a dozen schools I could name in Antigua."

ST. KITTS.

1. The schools in this Presidency are again deserving of commendation.

2. The daily average attendance is increasing, and is 231 more than it was in 1875.

ANTIGUA.

3. Only 5 out of 25 schools failed to obtain a class, and of the 20 schools which were successful at the examination, no less than 9 attained to the first or second class.

4. The Moravian and Wesleyan schools in Basseterre obtained a first class.

5. One school, the manager of which was absent from the Island on sick leave, lost its place in the second class. The teacher has since been removed, and the manager is determined that the school shall regain its former position when the next Government inspection takes place.

6. The Government grant made to the Rev. C. C. Culpeper, the rector of St. Mary's, towards the cost of erection of the new school house at Cayon has been well applied. It is a very substantial building of stone; commodious, conveniently situated, and well suited for the purpose for which it is intended. It is cased on the inside with pitch-pine boards, and a belfry in the centre of the roof acts as a ventilator. There is a porch containing a lavatory, and adjoining the school is a comfortable and convenient class-room. Both the rector and his wife take a personal and active interest in the school, which has advanced from the third to the second class. In the above-mentioned class-room I inspected the girls' sewing class, the organisation of which was perfect.

7. The sewing in the schools of this Island is better on the whole than that in the schools of any other Presidency. I partly attribute this to the impetus and encouragement formerly given to this useful branch of education, when children from the various schools competed for prizes at a public examination held in the Court House in Basseterre.

DOMINICA.

1. The improvement in the state of elementary education in this Presidency, bad though it still is, has been very marked.

2. The daily average attendance has increased from 600 in 1875 to 1,022 in 1877, or over 70 per cent.

3. In 1875, out of 23 schools, only 8 passed the Government examination; whilst in 1877, out of 22 schools, 14 obtained a class.

4. I report with pleasure that 7 schools have advanced to a higher position. Of these, 5 advanced from the failed list to the third class.

5. The Government School for Boys in Roseau has advanced to the first class, and takes its place at the head of all the schools in the Island. Great credit is due to the zealous and able teacher, Mr. F. Simon.

6. Next follows the Victoria Orphanage for Girls, also in Roseau. The sewing class in this school is by far the best of any in the whole Colony. It is well nigh impossible to speak too highly of this charitable and most useful institution.

7. Greatly increased interest in the cause of elementary education is being taken by the Roman Catholic clergy of this Island.

8. In Mahaut the Roman Catholic rector has opened a school which I have recommended for exceptional aid. It has been so largely attended by the children in the neighbourhood that I have closed the Government school in that district, deeming it to be now superfluous.

9. In Wesley Ville, in the north-eastern part of the Island, a school has been opened by Father Branchereau, which I hope to inspect when I visit Dominica next year.

10. Others of the Roman Catholic clergy have corresponded with me, expressing their desire to open schools in their respective parishes where the children of their parishioners may be educated under their own immediate supervision.

11. The proposed examination of teachers took place in Roseau on Easter Monday. The attendance of teachers of denominational schools was optional, yet several were present at the examination, one of whom acquitted himself creditably. Four prizes were offered, of the value of 4*l.*, 3*l.*, 2*l.*, and 1*l.* respectively. The first prize was won easily by Mr. J. Michael, master of the Portsmouth Government School, who holds a first-class certificate of the Mico Training Institution, Antigua. These examinations, which it is intended to hold yearly, must prove beneficial directly to the teachers themselves and indirectly to their pupils.

MONTSERRAT.

1. Marked improvement has taken place in the schools of this Island, though I am bound to report that they are still in a far from satisfactory condition.

2. In 1875, out of 12 schools not 1 passed, and 5 were struck off the Government list, there being nothing whatever to recommend them. In 1877, out of 10 schools, 4 (though only 4) obtained places in the class list.

3. It must be mentioned, however, that out of the 6 schools which failed to come up to the Government standard, 2 are new schools opened by the rector of St. Anthony's, at Kinsale and St. Patrick's. I have recommended them both for exceptional aid, as schools are required in the locality where they are situated.

4. The Roman Catholic school in Plymouth, kept in a hired room, has increased in numbers under the active management of Father Gaugneux. I gladly recommend the Government to aid by a grant his endeavours to erect a suitable and convenient school house.

5. Messrs. Sturge's school at Olveston, under the able supervision of Bishop Westerby, of the United Brethren, is now firmly established. The education given is of the most useful and practical kind, and the organization was excellent. It is a valuable model and stimulus, to the other schools of the Island, and thus indirectly exercises a beneficial influence upon them.

6. I do not think it is altogether out of place to allude here to the great loss which the cause of education in this Colony has

ANTIGUA.

suffered by the sudden and premature death of the Reverend G. Grayson, the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission in this Island. I first met him in 1876, at Dieppe Bay, in St. Kitts, where he had the management of a school, attended by more than 200 children. On his removal to Montserrat, he at once applied his great zeal and energy towards the improvement of the schools under his charge; and at the late examination, the Plymouth Wesleyan school, though held in a hired room, obtained a second class. At the time of his death he was preparing plans for a Wesleyan school house to be shortly erected in that town.

NEVIS.

1. The progress made by the schools of this Presidency has been most satisfactory.

2. The general average attendance is higher than in any other Presidency.

3. Out of 9 schools, 7 came up to the Government standards, and of these 7, 3 attained to the second class.

4. Furthermore, the only 2 schools which failed are new schools, recommended for exceptional aid.

5. Three schools advanced their position,—one, St. George's, Anglican, from the failed list, to the second class. The teacher holds a first-class certificate from the Mico Training Institution, Antigua.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

1. Out of the 9 schools visited by me in this Presidency only one—the Wesleyan school, in Road Town, Tortola, obtained a class. This school is situated close to the residence, and is under the immediate supervison, of the Wesleyan Minister, and is taught by a trained teacher, who laboured successfully in St. Kitts.

2. The other schools, with one exception, are in remote places, not under constant supervision, and in many cases taught by underpaid and untrained teachers. The result is just what might be expected.

3. Yet the inhabitants of these Islands are fully alive to the great advantages of education so that the schools in such remote and unfrequented Islands as Anegada, Virgin Gorda, and Jost Van Dyke, are well attended

4. Although these schools approached nowhere near to the Government standard, yet it was a pleasure to find that so many of the scholars could at any rate read and write, though but imperfectly.

5. I recommend the 8 schools which failed, for exceptional aid.

6. The system of school registration is very defective. I am sorry to report that I could not but deem untrustworthy the registers of Peter Island (Wesleyan) school, and Virgin Gorda, (Anglican) school. Both teachers have, I believe, been superseded. I have, therefore, recommended the continuance of the payment of the Government grant. Managers should frequently inspect their

school registers, since, at the end of the year, they are bound to certify that the returns are correct.

7. I fear that unless the circumstances of these unfortunate Islands improve considerably, there is little likelihood of the schools attaining to class standards. A great drawback is the impossibility of the ministers of religion exercising a sufficiently frequent supervision over the outlying schools to be satisfactory. The journeys by land are arduous, and those by sea sometimes dangerous, and always uncertain as to the time which may be consumed.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

1. The method of school registration is very various, and in some schools defective. I hope to see adopted at some future time one and the same system of school registration throughout the Colony.

2. Great efforts are being made everywhere to work up the schools to the Government standards. I recommend, therefore, that the standards be neither altered nor raised in any respect at present.

3. Immediately after the Government inspection a list of the schools arranged in order of merit was published in the "Royal Gazette of the Leeward Islands," and copies were sent to the several managers and school teachers. I have reason for believing that the list was keenly scrutinized, and has produced a feeling of laudable rivalry between teachers, which cannot but be productive of good to their respective schools.

4. The great increase in the daily average attendance since 1875 is, of course, most satisfactory. Yet, nevertheless, I am painfully aware that there are in the Colony large numbers of little children growing up in idleness and ignorance—the parents of every vice.

5. And this induces me again to revert to the subject of compulsory attendance, which is constantly brought under my notice by managers and teachers of schools, and has frequently had my serious consideration.

6. Under the auspices of ministers of religion, much has already been accomplished for education, and I sincerely trust that by continued efforts on their part, and by a wise and liberal policy on the part of the Government and legislatures, what still remains to be done may shortly be accomplished.

7. The school accommodation of the Colony, is now fairly sufficient for the wants of the population. What is chiefly required is the means of securing the attendance of children at school. Yet very great difficulties lie in the way of compelling children to attend school; and in Dominica, the Virgin Islands, and in the mountainous and remote parts of the other Presidencies, it would be wellnigh impossible to do so.

It seems to me that if public money is to be voted for the maintenance of schools, either wholly or in part, then it is only fair to the tax-payers to compel all persons to take advantage of the provisions made for the elementary education of the children of the poorer classes.

ANTIGUA.

The English method is indirect, and answers well, I believe. No child may be employed under the age of 10 years, even by his parents; and at that age, he must have a certificate that he has attended school a certain number of times in the course of the past two years, or, have a certificate that he has passed a certain standard. Perhaps something of the same kind might be easily worked here at a small cost, and be producive of much good, by increasing education, and so decreasing crime.

In this matter, however, as in all other matters affecting the social condition of the population, we cannot hope to produce any considerable result without the co-operation of all classes of the community to promote their moral, social, and intellectual improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
Inspector-General of Schools for
the Leeward Islands.

His Honour E. D. Baynes, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX.

The INSPECTOR'S SPECIAL REPORT on the SCHOOLS in BARBUDA.

SIR, Antigua, September 24, 1877.

IN accordance with his Excellency's instructions, and after having given formal notice to the Rev. W. Cowley of my intended visit, I proceeded to Barbuda at daybreak on Tuesday the 18th instant.

2. The population of this Island is about 800, all of whom belong nominally to the Anglican Church, and reside in one locality called Codrington Village.

3. The chuch called Holy Trinity Church, the rector of which is the Rev. W. Cowley, is a stone building, cruciform, roof boarded and shingled, and decently furnished for divine worship. It is the pride of the inhabitants and so well attended as to be scarcely large enough for its present wants.

4. Near to the church is the school house, also built of stone, well ventilated, and roofed with sedge, except at the north end, which has recently been boarded and shingled. The roof sustained much damage during the gale of last September, so that the repairing and renewing of it was an absolute necessity.

5. This building is 66 feet long and 13 feet broad in the clear, and is therefore a long narrow building. On Sundays it is used for the purposes of a Sunday school, when it is crowded with young men and women who attend to receive religious instructions from their minister and from teachers appointed by him.

6. Wednesday the 19th I spent in the school preparing the scholars for the Government examination, which was to take place on the next day. I found 92 regular scholars present, exclusive of a very large number of young children seated at one end of the room, and who behaved very well.

7. These 92 scholars had been arranged by the manager in five classes to correspond with the five standards of the Educational Code. I heard too from an independent source that the manager himself taught daily in the school, and was indefatigable in his exertions on behalf of the children of the Island.

8. The school was well furnished with school apparatus, and there was an abundant supply of books, slates, pencils, &c.

9. Nevertheless, the zeal and earnestness of the manager, aided by a sick untrained master and a female assistant, who also acted as sewing mistress, could not make up for the want of an experienced and trained teacher.

10. On Thursday, the 20th instant, I formally and carefully examined the school, the result being just as I expected, in spite of the great exertions of the manager, The school was a fac-simile of the majority of the schools of the Colony before the introduction of the New Code.

11. The reading was good, writing fair, arithmetic only one mark out of 12. On the whole, however, the school obtained 21·7 marks, equivalent to 22 marks out of a maximum of 66, and consequently was just entitled to a place in the third class.

12. With this result the manager was satisfied. He frankly confessed that the New Code was good and must necessarily raise the standard of general education, and expressed his determination to bring his school up to the Government requirement by next year.

13. I may here remark that I think the Government grant to this school, the only one in the Island, is well spent. It amounts to 36*l.* per annum, and is paid, I believe, out of the Barbuda rent fund.

14. The amount earned by the school this year on this the first application to it of the new law would not be more than 23*l.*, but I strongly recommend the continuance of the usual grant for the present.

15. I took care, however, to warn the manager that the change in the mode of payment must inevitably take place, and he replied that he did not shrink from the application to his school of the principle of payment according to results, provided only that a reasonable time for preparation be allowed him.

16. No school fees are, or ever have been, charged in this school. This is in direct violation of section 8 of the Education Act. I pointed this out to the manager, who promised to introduce into his school the payment of fees forthwith. This will increase somewhat his school funds.

ANTIGUA.

17. All the children were neatly clad, and looked clean, healthy, and cheerful, in marked contrast to the half-naked and, apparently, half-starved children whom I sometimes meet in the woods in Dominica.

18. All the people too seemed to be strong, contented, and healthy, and no sickness was prevailing in the Island.

19. Many of the young men emigrate as sailors and go to Antigua, Demerara, New York, and even England. I often meet Barbuda sailors on board the royal mail steamers. They seem to be a steady, healthy, strong, daring, sea-loving race of people.

20. Little money circulates in the Island, but the inhabitants are well supplied with fish, turtle, and vegetables. Many of them have boats, stock, ponies, and large provision grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
Inspector-General of Schools.

To his Honour E. D. Baynes, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, St. Kitts,
June 11, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Island for the past year, with a report thereon from President Moir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

Government Office, St. Kitts,
May 9, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Presidency for the year 1877.

2. My anticipation of a short crop of sugar, which was expressed in my report for the preceding year, has been fulfilled, only to a larger extent than I then feared; for when the canes were cut it was found that they had suffered from the effects of the severe gale of the previous September and the subsequent drought far more than at the time was expected.

3. Excluding from the comparative statement of the revenue for 1876 the sum of 4,281*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, which was a special tax raised in that year only,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The receipts for 1876 were -	27,295	7	5
for 1877 - - -	24,165	19	5
Showing a deficiency of -	3,129	8	0

The expenditure for the same period was,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1876 - -	27,992	12	9
In 1877 - - -	27,052	18	4
Reduced expenditure -	939	14	5

	£	*s.*	*d.*
4. The estimated Revenue for 1877 was -	26,271	11	6
The Actual Revenue - - -	24,165	19	5
Over estimate - -	2,105	12	1

The estimated expenditure for 1877 was -	27,230	9	11
The actual expenditure - - -	27,052	18	4
Or, a saving of - -	177	11	7

ST. KITTS.

	£	s.	d.
5. Upon referring to the import and export duties, or the first five items in the comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1876–7, it will be observed that the total collections fell off during the latter year by - - -	6,372	13	6
From which, when the deduction is made of the special tax above mentioned collected in 1876 - - - - - -	4,281	16	11
There is shown a net deficit under those heads of - - - - - -	2,090	16	7

But the import duties more than realized the estimated receipts by upwards of 400*l.*, so that it is but fair to compare what was estimated for and what was realized under the four following items, which are all immediately affected by the annual shipment of our staple products.

	£	s.	d.
These heads of revenue were estimated to yield	7,920	0	0
But only secured - - - -	5,539	0	0
Deficiency - - - -	2,381	0	0

So that, depending for a large portion of revenue, as this Island must ever do, under the present system of taxation, on the quantity of produce exported, it is manifest that when the crop is not up to the average the Treasury is unable to meet its liabilities, and that in years of prosperity alone can favourable balances be secured and carefully husbanded for demands on it in the future.

6. The liquor licenses and the Excise duty also fell short of the estimate by nearly 200*l.*, the total receipts being less than the previous year by 445*l.*, owing, almost entirely, to the facilities afforded to the illicit traffic in spirits by the close proximity to this Presidency of the neighbouring Islands of St. Barts and St. Eustatius, into which gin and rum (it is said notably from Grenada) were introduced in large quantities, and thence run over in a few hours to the numerous landing places on the coast of St. Kitts. Notwithstanding all the precautions taken, and the attention of the revenue officers and the police being frequently called to this unsatisfactory state of things, the evil continued and gradually increased.

7. The demoralizing effects of this state of things was frequently brought to light by small seizures of two or three demijohns of rum and gin at a time, taken from men, women, and young

people scarcely any of whom were able to pay a fine, and who were consequently sent to swell the number of the gaol gangs.

8. The result of all this was that, when the Excise Duty Act had to be renewed, the majority of the House of Assembly refused to continue the excessive amount which had been levied during the past three years, and reduced the duty from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* per gallon. They argued that this change would render unprofitable the introduction of foreign rum, which would then cost more than our taxed native production, and would, at the same time, encourage the legitimate shopkeeper to resume the protection of the spirit license, which he could not continue to pay for so long as he was undersold by shebeeners.

9. My fear is that the advocates of this reduction will not realize their anticipations of an equivalent revenue, but if it effects all the moral good which it is prophesied will follow the reduction in the Excise duty, we shall gladly accept it as a valuable compensation for any small pecuniary loss which may be involved in the change.

10. The following is a table showing the estimated revenue and expenditure for 1877, and the several amounts actually realized and disbursed :—

Revenue.

Items.	Estimated Revenue, 1877.	Actual Revenue, 1877.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Import duty - - - - -	12,000 0 0	12,410 11 5
Export duty - - - - -	2,600 0 0	1,746 16 11
Cavalry tax - - - - -	2,500 0 0	1,565 12 1
Export tonnage - - - -	1,420 0 0	1,038 5 11
Tonnage and package - - -	1,400 0 0	1,188 16 11
Fines, fees, and forfeitures - - -	1,400 0 0	1,089 11 2
Licenses - - - - -	1,184 0 0	861 16 8
Post office account - - - -	250 0 0	226 19 8
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	480 0 0	732 1 8
Basseterre building loan - - -	737 11 6	836 19 7
	26,271 11 6	24,165 19 5

Expenditure.

Items.	Estimated Expenditure, 1877.			Actual Expenditure, 1877.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
President	1,000	0	0	1,026	0	7
Legislative	100	0	0	100	0	0
Treasury	1,502	10	0	1,486	7	6
Roads	300	0	0	300	0	0
Post Office	110	0	0	104	4	9
Waterworks	227	0	0	195	3	2
Cemeteries	117	0	0	114	1	3
Sanitary and registration	50	0	0	43	14	11
Town warden	360	0	0	359	18	0
General Government, Leeward Islands	1,987	18	3	2,008	9	11
Judicial	1,790	0	0	1,787	10	0
Ecclesiastical	1,455	10	0	1,455	10	0
Education	764	16	9	733	14	8
Medical	1,400	0	0	1,389	13	9
Police	1,749	0	0	1,674	13	7
Gaols	365	0	0	365	0	0
Fire Company	174	5	0	174	4	8
Cunningham Hospital	390	0	0	390	0	0
Sandy Point Hospital	500	0	0	499	13	1
Pensions	999	16	5	1,011	13	8
Administration of justice	35	0	0	39	3	1
Ecclesiastical (examination of establishments)	151	3	4	148	13	4
Charitable allowances	950	0	0	946	16	11
Hospitals	1,670	0	0	1,645	7	7
Police and gaols	996	1	10	1,060	12	7
Rents	98	3	8	90	13	4
Works and buildings	592	0	0	703	5	3
Roads, streets, and bridges	1,815	5	8	1,728	12	9
Interest	602	0	0	623	2	8
Sanitary and Registration	730	0	0	681	1	8
Militia	2,330	0	0	2,192	0	10
Basseterre building loan	650	0	0	716	10	7
Quarantine	100	0	0	97	2	0
Lights and signals	35	0	0	34	18	5
Lighting	100	0	0	99	17	5
Stationery	50	0	0	36	6	3
Printing	100	0	0	82	5	4
Badges	5	0	0	2	19	10
Flags	8	0	0	2	16	5
Petty expenses	80	0	0	79	15	5
Drawbacks	—			21	2	10
Telegraph	800	0	0	800	0	0
	27,230	9	11	27,052	18	4

11. The balance in the Treasury on the 31st December 1877 available for this year's service amounted to 3,033*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

Debt.

12. On the 31st December 1877 the Presidency was liable to various holders of debentures, issued in 1869, for the purpose of enabling proprietors to rebuild their house property which had been destroyed by fire in July 1867, in the sum of - - - - - - £ 5,200 0 0

Less amount due by householders secured on buildings - - - - - 3,923 0 0

1,277 0 0

And to the Immigration Fund, borrowed for general purposes in the years 1874–75 - 7,062 0 0

8,339 0 0

Public Works.

13. The late Inspector of Works failed to supply any information in respect of this subject, but the return in the Blue Book form has been filled up, to the best of my ability, from the amounts entered in my warant book, from which it appears that, with the exception of the usual repairs to roads, streets, and bridges, there was no work of importance effected during the year.

Under the supplementary votes, Springfield House was fully, and St. Peter's Rectory and St. Ann's Church partially, repaired, and a beginning made in the new supports to the Lodge Wall.

Legislation.

14. Twelve Acts were passed during the year, which have received the Royal Assent, but they were of only local importance, the General Legislative Council providing those laws which are of general benefit to the Colony of the Leeward Islands.

Population.

15. The Register of Births and Deaths shows a net gain of 148 to the population during the year 1877 by natural increase, the first quarter of the year giving the largest number of births, and the third quarter the greatest number of deaths.

—	Births.	Deaths.
1st quarter -	356	262
2nd quarter - -	328	279
3rd quarter - -	257	303
4th quarter - -	273	222
	1,214	1,066

ST. KITTS.

16. The estimated population at the close of the year 1876 was - - - - 29,011
Add the above increase - - - 148

And the probable population at the end of the year 1877 will be - 29,159

	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.
1874 - -	1,203	1,010	193
1875 - -	1,285	1,143	142
1876 - -	1,231	879	352
1877 - -	1,214	1,066	148
	4,933	4,098	835

17. The death rate for 1877 was nearly 200 above that of the previous year, (which, however, was the smallest on record since the year 1866), but it did not exceed the usual average, and the health of the Presidency was fairly good.

18. In the early part of the year there was an epidemic of influenza of a very severe type, and many aged and infirm people, together with some children, succumbed to its effects. This epidemic ceased in April, and was succeeded by one of fever, which did not prove very fatal.

19. During the first six months of the year there was a rather formidable disease with which two or three medical districts had to cope. This is designated "cerebro spinal meningitis," which was rapid in its progress and fatal in its results. The last reported case occurred in the month of June, and we have no recorded instance of its previous occurrence here. At Santa Croix, this disease prevailed extensively about three years ago, and there it proved fatal in a large number of cases

20. As usual, diarrhœa was prevalent in the third quarter of the year, and claimed a number of victims, but on the whole, as will be seen in the above tables, there is much cause for thankfulness with respect to the sanitary condition of the Island, and that the death rate was not higher then 3½ per cent. of the population.

21. The following is a classification of the causes of death, with the number who died from each cause in 1877 :—

Zymotic diseases - - - - -	130
Cancer and other diseases of variable seat - -	42
Tubercular diseases - - - -	98
Diseases of the brain and nervous system - -	157
„ heart and blood vessels - -	56
„ lungs and organs of respiration -	70
„ stomach, liver, and organs of digestion -	260
Geniti urinary organs - - - -	16
Skin and cellular tissue - - - -	26

Child birth - - - - - -	6
Rheumatism - - - - - -	15
Atrophy - - - - - -	9
Old age - - - - - -	35
Violence, privation, &c. - - - -	8
Causes not specified - - - - -	23
Still births - - - - - -	115
	1,066

22. The successful cases of vaccinations for the last four years were as follows:—

In 1874 - - - -	434
„ 1875 - - - -	389
„ 1876 - - - -	521
„ 1877 - - - -	883
	2,227

And the number of marriages:—

In 1874 - - - -	116
„ 1875 - - - -	83
„ 1876 - - - -	150
„ 1877 - - - -	175

Education.

23. Twenty-five schools came under the operation of the Federal Education Act in 1877. Of these, two schools obtained first class, seven schools secured second class, and eleven schools received third class certificates from the Inspector, while five schools failed in the necessary qualification, but were recommended for special assistance. The average attendance in 1875 was 1,327, in 1876 it was 1,525, and in 1877 it slightly increased to 1,558 scholars.

The grants in aid were—

—	Class Grants.	Capitation Grants.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 - -	261 5 0	316 5 6
1877 - -	280 0 0	326 4 0

So that while 577*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* were granted in 1876, the aid given in 1877 amounted to 606*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*

This increase is but small, yet it is satisfactory to find that the principle of the Act is not losing ground, but, on the contrary, is slowly obtaining favour with the several denominations who take advantage of the provisions of the Act.

Postage.

24. The following statement shows the number of letters despatched and received in the years 1876–77, and the value of money orders issued and paid for the same period.

Year.	No. of Letters despatched.	No. of Letters received.
1876 - -	14,824	15,946
1877 - -	14,965	14,814

Money Orders.

Year.	Money Orders issued (Value).	Money Orders paid (Value).
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 - -	1,810 6 8	83 11 2
1877 - -	1,584 0 3	166 6 3

Imports and Exports.

25. The value of the imports and exports for the last three years was as follows omitting fractions:—

Imports from	1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£
Great Britain - - -	61,598	70,827	63,040
British West Indies -	16,933	16,697	17,250
British North America -	6,482	6,148	5,015
Foreign countries - -	178	199	11
Foreign West Indies -	2,618	2,997	3,721
United States America -	45,046	42,426	45,187

Exports.

Exports to	1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£
Great Britain - - -	114,101	123,755	111,536
British West Indies -	7,862	7,860	7,284
British North America -	3,208	5,309	7,456
Foreign countries - -	—	—	—
Foreign West Indies -	8,134	5,815	7,102
United States America -	7,235	13,409	13,786

During the same period there was exported the following produce:—

Years.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	hogsheads.	puncheons.	gallons.
1875 - -	10,357	1,350	335,223
1876 - -	10,186	1,342	308,564
1877 -	7,515	1,019	250,327

And of minor productions there were exported the following:—

Years.	Salt.	Potatoes.	Arrowroot.	Tous les Mois.	Tamarinds.	Pickles.
	barrels.	barrels.	lbs.	lbs.	gallons.	gallons.
1875 -	13,774	3,146	5,930	48,775	114	2,030
1876 -	12,484	6,464	5,300	51,873	15	4,968
1877 -	6,374	4,214	1,200	15,900	6	3,294

The subjoined statistical tables may prove interesting:—

Population.	Three years' average Revenue, 1875–77.	Rate per Head.	Three years' average Expenditure, 1875–77.	Rate per Head.
	£	*s.* *d.*	£	*s.* *d.*
29,000	27,436	18 11	27,396	18 11

Average Value of Imports, 1875–77.	Rate per Head.	Average Value of Exports, 1875–77.	Rate per Head.
£	£	£	£ *s.* *d.*
406,380	14	443,856	15 6 0

Shipping.

26. The tonnage of sailing vessels inwards was:—

Years.	With Cargo.		In ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875	582	24,218	224	8,046	806	32,264	3,947
1876	599	24,736	292	6,253	891	30,899	4,103
1877	654	23,574	295	4,598	949	28,172	4,107

St. Kitts.

The tonnage of sailing vessels outwards was :—

Years.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
1875	679	26,763	126	5,475	805	32,238	3,942
1876	775	23,487	116	7,981	891	31,468	4,156
1877	797	21,579	145	6,590	942	28,169	4,124

Gaols and Prisons.

27. In continuance of previous years reports, I insert a comparative return of the gaol statistics for the last five years :—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.
1873	379	115	18
1874	384	129	16
1875	476	167	21
1876	348	171	29
1877	378	215	49

Of whom there were previously convicted :—

Years.	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or oftener.
1873	70	35	142
1874	58	40	151
1875	101	125	170
1876	49	59	92
1877	89	14	73

The daily average number of prisoners was :—

In 1873 - - - -	81
„ 1874 - - - -	77
„ 1875 - - - -	87
„ 1876 - - - -	75
„ 1877 - - - -	74

And the cost of the establishment was :—

	£	s.	d.
In 1873 - - -	1,163	0	0
„ 1874 - - -	1,174	0	0
„ 1875 - - -	1,178	0	0
„ 1876 - - -	1,198	0	0
„ 1877 - - -	1,243	0	0

Criminal Statistics.

Offences.	No. of Persons summarily convicted.					No. sent for Trial to Superior Court.				
	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Against the person - -	334	591	428	505	414	28	24	29	51	32
Prædial larceny - -	90	68	98	112	229	—	—	4	2	4
Against property other than prædial larceny - -	276	385	467	186	307	40	41	56	37	30
Against masters and servants	102	143	96	133	93	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences - - -	1,198	1,072	555	986	1,009	13	29	22	10	4
Total - - -	2,000	2,259	1,644	1,684	2,052	81	94	111	100	70

Number of persons convicted in superior courts:—

Offences.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Against the person - -	17	10	18	25	12
Prædial larceny - - -	10	12	—	—	1
Against property, &c. - -	8	26	34	22	11
Other offences - - -	1	2	11	14	6
Total - - -	36	50	63	61	30

Number of persons acquitted.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
In inferior courts - -	2,981	2,857	2,812	2,844	1,763
In superior courts - -	22	20	31	47	32

The punishments inflicted were as follows:—

Punishment.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Fine - - - -	1,544	1,793	1,588	1,396	1,307
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety - - - -	274	286	357	295	522
Peremptory imprisonment -	150	129	166	147	182
Whipping - - -	6	3	—	2	—
Bound over - - -	26	48	35	82	41
Total - - -	2,000	2,259	2,146	1,922	2,052

Hospitals.

28. The Cunningham Hospital Act of 1867 limited the number of patients who might at any one time be admitted to 90, but that limit had from necessity been frequently exceeded. It was therefore found necessary to increase the means of accommodation, and to amend the Act in order to the legal admission of a greater number. Accordingly Act No. 9 of 1877 was passed, which provides that the Superintendent of the Hospital shall be the sole judge of the number of patients which may be admitted, having due regard to the health of the inmates, and to the pecuniary provision annually made by the Legislative Assembly for their support.

St. Kitts.

On the 1st of January 1877 there were in this institution 57 males and 37 females, the number admitted during the year was 314, the number discharged was 251, and those who died numbered 61; thus leaving 96 in hospital at the end of the year. In last week's medical return I find that there were 92 sick and 15 paupers in this institution, and that the average number o. 15 lunatics were receiving the necessary attention and medical treatment in the adjoining building, while 52 outdoor patients and 42 lepers obtained medical advice, medicines, and pecuniary assistance through the hands of the superintendent.

In the Sandy Point Hospital there were 13 patients on the 1st of January 1877, 63 were admitted during the year, 55 were discharged, and 7 died, leaving 14 in hospital at the end of the year.

These hospitals continue their efficient and useful work and elicit encomiums from all who visit them for inspection.

Conclusion.

29. When framing the estimates for this year, I adopted as a basis of the probable crop of sugar the estimate of the Auditor General for the previous year, although, as I stated at the time, I had every expectation of the accepted 12,000 hogsheads being considerably increased. In this expectation, I am glad to say, there will be no disappointment, for reaping and manufacturing operations are being rapidly proceeded with, already five ships have been despatched to Europe fully, and five partially, laden, while seven have cleared for the United States, being partially loaded here with Island produce, and from opinions expressed by the planters, on all parts of the Island, I am led to believe that this year will witness the shipment of the largest crop on record, while there is every reason for gratitude and satisfaction in the healthy appearance and vigorous growth of the plants which are to supply next year's crop.

With God's blessing, in the form of continued showers, and on the skilled labour and good management of His creatures, a very few moderately prosperous crops would enable this Presidency to re-invest the money temporarily appropriated from the immigration fund, to effect the needful repairs to public buildings, which have been unavoidably delayed, to proceed with one or two new works which it would be for the advantage of the people to erect, and eventually, either to reduce taxation, or deposit in the bank a moderate balance as a provision for unforeseen contingencies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Alex. M. Moir.

The Hon. Edwin D. Baynes, Esq., C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands.

NEVIS.

No. 11.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
April 5, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for 1877, with a report thereon from President Havelock.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1877.

Taxes and other Sources of Revenue.

1. Revised tariffs of import and export duties were passed by the Legislature in September of last year, and came into operation on the 20th October. The main object attained by the new tariffs is the consolidation into one of the three separate cumulative rates of duties previously levied.

2. In the tariff of import duties some slight alterations were made, more with the view of simplifying calculations than with the intention of producing a financial result. In the case of some articles previously rated "ad valorem," specific rates estimated to produce the same results were imposed. The only important increase is the addition of 25 per cent. to the duty on brandy and tobacco, the only reduction worthy of note is the decrease by about 33 per cent. on most descriptions of timber and lumber.

3. In the export tariff the duty previously paid on horses, cattle, and sheep is remitted.

4. A tariff of fees for the registration of deeds, &c. in the registrar's office was legalised and came into operation in June 1877.

5. By Act No. 9 of 1877, the house tax was repealed. By Act No. 10 an increase of 25 per cent. was made on the excise duty paid on rum. Neither of these Acts, however, came into operation until the 1st of January 1878. They cannot, therefore, be included among the changes affecting the revenue of 1877.

6. By Act No. 15 of 1877, the rates of licenses for the sale of rum and liquors were reduced by 25 per cent. This Act came into operation in October 1877.

7. It is estimated that the result of the above changes will be a loss of about 250*l.* in the revenue of the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

8. The total amount shown to have been received into the Treasury from all sources during the year 1877 is 12,664*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.* During 1876 the corresponding receipts amounted to 11,186*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* But these figures do not represent the actual revenue of the year, as they include several items of account and a balance on hand from the previous year.

9. Exclusive of the items just mentioned, but inclusive of the sum of 248*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* collected during 1877 on account of arrears of taxes due in 1876, the actual revenue receipts of the year were 9,114*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* The corresponding receipts of 1876, including revenue in arrear due in 1875 amounting to 234*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, were 9,027*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* Thus the receipts of 1877 were in excess of those of 1876 by 87*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

10. The revenue actually received in 1877 was short of the estimate by 202*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

11. The receipts from import duty exceeded the estimate by 307*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* They fell, however, short of the amount realised in 1876 by 565*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* Two causes contributed to this result, (1) the exceptionally small sugar crop of the year, and consequent commercial depression (2), an over importation of dry goods during 1876.

12. The proceeds of the export duty were considerably below the estimates and less than the average. This was a direct result of the short crop.

13. The year 1877 was the first complete financial period during which the Excise Act has been in operation. The excise on rum was estimated to give 1,200*l.*, the actual proceeds were 1,036*l.* 2*s.* It has been found that the estimate was based on an exaggerated calculation. The actual yield was as large as could have been fairly expected.

14. The receipts under the head of stamp duty were only a little in excess of a third of the estimate. The estimate was undoubtedly overstated, but at the same time there is reason to believe that this import has yielded less than it should have done. The Stamp Duty Act has been in operation little more than a year. The evasion of its provisions has been decreasing, and it will, I believe, continue to do so.

15. The land tax, the house and carriage tax, and the house tax have realised approximately or have slightly exceeded the estimated amounts.

16. The total disbursements of 1877 as shown by the Blue Book were 12,364*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, while those of 1876 were 10,944*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* But as has been stated in the case of the receipts, these amounts include several items of account not actually coming under the head of expenditure. The actual expenditure of the year, including 1,162*l.* 4*s.* 3½*d.* on account of the arrears of previous years, amounted to 9,368*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

17. The comparatively large sum of 1,584*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* was spent on public works. Of this amount 794*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, the outlay on

the restoration of the court house, may be considered as exceptional and special expenditure. The sums of 400*l.* and 96*l.* were paid respectively towards the liquidation of and interest on the debt incurred for general purposes. This item will cease to be a charge on the revenue in November 1880.

18. The following tabular statement shows comparatively (1) the gross receipts and disbursements, and (2) the actual and estimated revenue and expenditure of 1876 and 1877.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year.	Gross Receipts.	Gross Expenditure.	Cash Balances in Treasury, 31 December.	Estimated Actual Revenue.	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Revenue.	Actual Expenditure.	Deficit of year's Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 -	11,186 3 5	10,944 18 9	241 4 1	8,955 0 0	9,132 12 11	9,027 5 7	9,549 0 3	521 14 8
1877 -	12,664 6 4	12,364 12 3	299 14 1	9,317 0 0	8,550 4 2	9,114 9 4	9,368 5 2	353 15 10
Increase, 1877 -	1,478 2 11	1,419 13 6	58 9 5	362 0 0	—	87 3 9	—	—
Decrease, 1877 -	—	—	—	—	582 8 9	—	180 15 1	267 14 10

19. I am glad to be able to state that during 1877 a nearer approach was made towards establishing a satisfactory equilibrium between revenue and expenditure than for several years past, and this notwithstanding a partial failure in the staple product of the Island, producing a corresponding loss of revenue, and unusual demands on account of necessary public works. I believe I may safely say that the finances of Nevis have now, thanks to the resolute measures adopted during the last two years by the Government and the Legislature, been re-established on a firm and healthy basis. Ordinary care and watchfulness combined with a determination to avoid doubtful experiments and imprudent undertakings, will, I am convinced, be sufficient to maintain them in that position.

Immigration Fund.

20. The total receipts during 1877 on account of immigration were 1,136*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* Including the sum of 600*l.*, paid in liquidation of the immigration loan, and of 108*l.* for interst, the total expenditure amounted to 1,112*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

21. The immigration fund is formed by a special tax on the exportation of sugar, rum, and molasses, and by the annual instalments of the indenture fees due by the proprietors to whom coolies were originally allotted.

22. In addition to a loan obtained in 1874 for immigration purposes an advance of 1,850*l.* was made from the general revenue. At the close of 1877, the total liabilities of the fund were 3,050*l.* Of this amount 1,200*l.* represents the unredeemed portion of the loan.

NEVIS.

23. The whole of the amount advanced from the general revenue, viz., 1,850*l.*, still remains a charge against the immigration fund.

Public Debt.

24. During the year 1874 two loans of 1,000*l.* and 2,000*l.* respectively were obtained for immigration purposes, making a total of 3,000*l.* In 1875 a loan of 2,000*l.* was raised for the purpose of meeting outstanding liabilities. The rate of interest on all the loans is six per cent.

25. These loans are being rapidly paid off. On the 31st December 1877 the amount of the immigration loan left outstanding was 1,200*l.*, and of the loan for general purposes, 1,200*l.* The former loan will be completely paid off by August 1879; the latter by November 1880.

26. The total amount of public debt on the 31st December 1877 was 2,400*l.* During 1877 the debt of the Colony was reduced by 1,000*l.*

Public Works.

27. The most important public work undertaken during the past year was the restoration of the court house, which had been destroyed by fire in 1873. The cost of this work was estimated at 430*l.*, but very soon after its commencement it became apparent that a much larger sum would be required to carry it out. Supplementary votes were taken to the amount of 293*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* Before, however, the building was so far finished as to be fit for use and occupation the total amount of 794*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* had been expended. It is calculated that the cost of the interior fittings, &c. will be about 200*l.* A vote for that amount appears in this year's estimate.

28. The entire cost of the work will be thus swelled to 994*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* Taking into consideration the size and plan of the building, I do not think this amount by any means excessive. The original estimate was simply preposterous.

29. A stone bridge was built over a creek which crosses the main line of road about four miles from Charlestown, at a cost of 100*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* A considerable extent of the road round the Island was repaired and metalled, and otherwise improved. I am informed that with the exception of a small section, this road is now in better order than it ever was before. As much has been done to repair and improve the cross roads, of which there are many, as the vote would admit of.

30. The water supply of the Island generally, and of Charlestown in particular, is insufficient and precarious. The drainage and sanitary condition of Charlestown are not satisfactory. These are matters that call for early and serious attention. Means of communication would be greatly improved by the building of bridges in a few places. A small jetty at the village of Newcastle and another at Indian Castle would contribute to the convenience of shippers of sugar and of the community generally. None of these works present any engineering or other difficulty, nor need

they be costly. It is obvious, however, that the execution of them must, for want of means, be extended over a very long period.

Legislation.

31. There were 17 Acts passed by the Legislative Assembly during the session of 1877.

32. Legislation was directed towards two principal objects: (1.) The revision and consolidation of the system of taxation; (2.) The amendment and simplification of the Legislative Constitution.

33. No less than 14 Acts having reference to the collection of import and export duties, and imposing three cumulative tariffs, were revised and compressed into two Acts.

34. Important amendments were introduced in several others of the Revenue Acts.

35. By the repeal of the house tax, and an increase of the excise duty on rum by 25 per cent., the burthen of taxation is made to fall, without loss to the revenue, in such a manner as to relieve many to whom it was most grievous.

36. By Act No. 8 of 1877, the property qualification required of Members of the Legislative Assembly was abolished.

37. By Act No. 7, a carefully prepared procedure for the registration of voters became law. It came into operation at once, and a new list of voters was compiled and published.

38. But shortly before the close of the session these two last mentioned Acts became of no effect in consequence of a complete change in the Constitution. The Government was somewhat unexpectedly moved by a resolution emanating from the elective side of the Assembly, to introduce a Bill to change the form of the Legislative Constitution to that existing in Crown Colonies. This important measure, which was the last of the session, was carried by a large majority, and has since been confirmed by the Queen.

Changes in Fixed Establishments.

39. Mr. Goldsworthy left for Western Australia at the end of February, and I arrived in the Island and assumed the duties of President on the 6th April.

Education.

40. I have not yet seen the Report of the Inspector of Education for 1877. But from information obtained from the managers it appears that there were open during 1877, nine denominational schools receiving grants in aid from the Government, and that the number of names on the books was 964. The managers have omitted to state the average daily attendance, but it may be estimated at about 600. During 1876, seven schools received aid from the Government, and the daily average attendance was 493.

41. The total cost of maintaining the nine aided schools during 1877 was 434*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.* Of this sum, 207*l.* 15*s.* was granted

NEVIS.

by the Government, and the remainder was covered by voluntary subscriptions and by the small fees paid by the scholars.

42. The improvement in the efficiency of the schools that followed the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands Education Act of 1874, has, I believe, steadily continued.

Criminal and Judicial.

43. The number of offences reported was slightly less than during the previous year, 1,490 against 1,507. The convictions, however, were considerably more numerous, 1,203 against 951. The number of persons committed for trial during 1877 was 37 against 33 in 1876; the number of convictions before the Supreme Court was 17 against 13. The total number of persons sentenced to imprisonment was 217 against 212 during the previous year.

44. These figures would indicate a prevalence of crime disproportionate to a population of 12,000 or 13,000. It should, however, be explained that a very large proportion of the cases tried before the magistrate are of a trivial nature. Under the head of "other offences" 766 cases are reported. Of these, more than 50 per cent. were cases of neglect to pay taxes. Prædial larceny and infringements of the revenue laws are the most common offences.

45. The daily average number of prisoners in gaol was 23. The health of the gaol was good, there were no deaths, and only 42 admissions to the hospital during the year.

46. The Magistrates Petty Civil Debt Court established under Leeward Islands Act No. 10 of 1876 has worked well, and has supplied a very serious want. During 1877, 453 cases were decided before this court.

Imports and Exports.

47. The total value of the imports into Nevis during 1877 is stated to be 35,277*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* as against 37,932*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* in 1876, showing a decrease of 2,655*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* The total value of the exports from Nevis during 1877 was 49,567*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* against 54,682*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* in 1876.

48. The total quantity of sugar exported in 1877 was 3,556,800 lbs. or 1,976 hogsheads, valued at 29,640*l.* The total quantity of sugar exported in 1876 was 5,590,575 lbs. or about 3,100 hogsheads, representing a value of 46,216*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* The quantity and value of molasses and rum exported during 1876 and 1877 were as follows:—

	1876.		1877.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	gals.	£ *s.* *d.*	gals.	£ *s.* *d.*
Molasses - -	144,967	6,443 0 0	90,405	4,018 0 0
Rum - -	3,150	312 0 0	660	73 6 8

The total value of the produce of the sugar-cane exported in 1877 was 33,731*l.* 6*s.* 8*d*, against 52,971*l.* in 1876.

Public Health, Rainfall, &c.

49. The public health during 1877 was fairly good. The birth and death rates were respectively 43·7 per thousand and 26·5 per thousand. The number of births was 568, and of deaths 344; the increase of population was thus 224, or at the rate of 1·72 per cent. upon the estimated population, viz. 13,000.

50. The rate of mortality among infants is always disproportionately high, and 1877 showed no exception to the rule. This circumstance is to be attributed, in addition to other causes, to the extreme poverty, if not actual want, that prevails among the labouring population of Nevis at certain seasons of the year when agricultural operations are almost entirely suspended, and many labourers are thrown out of employment. This condition of things intensified last year by an unusually bad crop.

51. The rainfall, that most important factor in the cultivation of the sugar-cane, always less abundant here than in most tropical islands, is moreover irregular and precarious. Observations taken on 10 different estates give an average rainfall for 1877 of 43·7 inches. During 1874, the average of the rainfall in six different localities was 48·1 inches, and in 1875 40·15 inches. For 1876, I have a return from one estate only, it shows a rainfall of 59·27 inches. In that year, 15·72 inches fell during the month of May, generally the driest period of the year. During October, November, and December, when heavy rain may be expected, and when it is necessary for the development of the growing crop, the fall was very scanty. The short crop of 1877 was the result of this unseasonable weather.

52. This uncertain rainfall, added to a full participation in the difficulties that beset and hamper the sugar making industry to a more or less degree in all the British West India Islands, renders, it must be confessed, the agricultural and manufacturing prospects of this Island most discouraging.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
President.

President's Office, Nevis,
29th March 1878.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 12.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
SIR, August 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for 1877, with a report thereon from President Hickson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

President HICKSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Tortola, July 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands for the year 1877.

2. There has been a decrease in the revenue for this year, occasioned in part by the hurricane of the 18th September 1876, which caused much distress, so that there were little exports or imports during the early part of 1877, after which, heavy rains having come on, ground provisions of all kinds shot up, produced much more than the inhabitants could consume, large boatloads were exported to St. Thomas, the owners could not sell and eventually gave up sending any, the market there being overstocked, they could not get any price for their produce, consequently there was but little export or import, which also in a great measure accounts for the decrease.

3. I am happy to be able to state that no wrecks of any kind occurred during the year. The lighthouse on the Island of Sombrero is considered invaluable with regard to warning vessels off the very dangerous Island Anegada and the extensive reefs abounding around.

4. The sanitary condition of the Presidency was as usual satisfactory up to the early part of November, at which time fever broke out (in some cases virulant) in these Islands. For some time there were from 80 to 100 cases in Road Town. It was also severely felt at East End, and wherever houses and huts formed small villages, but from the wise and energetic steps taken by the authorities and an efficient medical officer sent down, few deaths occurred, and fever has long since, I am happy to say, disappeared.

5. The gaol has been reported to me by the marshal as wanting some repairs, I shall take the earliest opportunity of getting it inspected.

6. The number of prisoners committed, mostly for petty offences, were 57 males and 6 females, with one exception, a case of murder, a very unusual occurrence in these Islands, for which the culprit expiated his crime on the 16th of July 1877, having left a letter in the hands of the chaplain, the Rev. Hugh Semper, acknowledging the justice of his sentence.

7. I enclose the medical officer's report of the infirmary and poor house, out-door relief has decreased much during the last few years, the number now receiving out-door relief are 19 weekly.

8. I have no doubt that the New School Act, which is now being carried out by the Government of the Leeward Islands through their efficient inspector, the Rev. Mr. Drinkwater, will in due time bear fruit in this Presidency. The inspector's report for the year 1877 is in your Excellency's hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. M. HICKSON,
President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
Leeward Islands.

Mr. SMITH to President HICKSON.

SIR, Tortola, January 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to you the condition of the poor house during the year 1877.

There were 10 males and 7 females in the poor house up to 31st December 1877, most of them chronic ulcers, incurable, they have been properly attended to and the place kept clean.

The dietary fixed by the board of guardians seems to be adequately proportioned, and the inmates have been quite satisfied with their allowance of food, its quality being of the very best.

There have been eight deaths during the year, six males and two females, all of ulcerated chronic diseases.

There is an abundance of wholesome water attached to the premises, a spring and cistern, also they can take their sea baths every morning, for the sea is near for that purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. H. SMITH,
Colonial Surgeon.

His Honour R. M. Hickson,
President of the Virgin Islands.

DOMINICA.

No. 13.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
August 2, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Dominica for 1877, with a report thereon from President Eldridge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK, Dominica, 1877.

Financial.

This important subject claims priority in my report. The recurring annual deficit and the approximation of the amounts of the revenue and of the expenditure fosters the continuance of financial difficulties, and until the Legislative Assembly adopts the suggestions of Governor Berkeley to impose temporary taxation to meet the difficulty, a more healthy state of affairs cannot be expected.

The following is a brief resumé of the year's taxation :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ordinary receipts - - -				16,061	13	5
Extraordinary :—						
Yaws tax - -	1,428	18	10½			
Street tax - -	81	3	8½			
Crown land fund -	382	18	5½			
Savings bank - -	61	17	9			
Administration of unrepresented estates -	66	1	6			
Police reward fund -	24	11	0			
				2,045	11	3½
Receipts in aid of waterworks - -	904	10	0			
Crown land fund for repairs of streets -	150	0	0			
				1,054	10	0
				£19,161	14	8½

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ordinary expenditure - - -				16,008	7	11
Extraordinary :—						
Yaws hospitals -	2,058	13	1½			
Repairs, streets -	82	6	6			
Crown land fund -	550	14	3			
Savings bank - -	29	15	0			
Administration of unrepresented estates -	11	2	6			
Waterworks - -	229	17	0			
				2,962	8	4½
Arrears in 1876 - - -				182	16	5
Balance in hand - - -				8	2	0
				£19,161	14	8½

It will thus be seen that the ordinary revenue and expenditure were pretty well equalised, but the burden of the debts of 1876 weighted the revenue beyond its power of endurance, thus the arrears of expenditure (183*l.*), the yaws balance of expenditure over receipts (629*l.*), and the payments on account of Crown land (168*l.*) amounted to a total of 980*l.*, and really represented the deficit of 1876. The debit balance against 1878 is about 1,300*l.*, inclusive of the salaries of the staff and the maintenance of the institutions for December, which were not paid until January 1878. The non-arrival of the ship with Christmas goods until the new year, and the duties received thereon (which were originally estimated in the revenue of 1877), will go far to counterbalance this heavy deficit.

The expenditure on the poor house, infirmary, lunatic asylum, yaws hospitals, and medical attendance on these institutions and on the labouring population during the past year amounted to some 4,500*l.*

The revenne and expenditure for the past seven years are as follows:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1871 - -	15,440	16,071
1872 - -	17,310	17,162
1873 - -	16,424	17,544
1874 - -	15,022	17,456
1875 - -	21,682	21,793
1876 - -	17,794	18,402
1877 - -	19,162	19,154

Public Debt.

Hurricane loan (payable in three years), 2,406*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, waterworks construction loan (payable in 25 years), 5,900*l.* Semi-annual appropriations from the general revenue of 250*l.* 15*s.* are

DOMINICA.

made and remitted to the Crown agents for investments towards the sinking fund for the latter loan.

Imports.

Year.	Imported from—			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	23,357	33,136	4,888	600
1872 - -	22,257	39,976	6,651	—
1873 - -	18,663	37,307	6,582	—
1874 - -	16,926	33,211	6,577	—
1875 - -	17,245	37,217	7,848	—
1876 - -	17,240	36,175	7,459	44
1877 - -	12,433	37,395	8,066	1,028

Exports.

Year.	Exported to—			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	Unid States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	49,940	2,424	1,131	1,463
1872 - -	56,606	3,945	1,034	259
1873 - -	54,290	4,001	3,591	136
1874 - -	60,004	5,460	2,256	—
1875 - -	58,561	5,946	4,136	2,978
1876 - -	66,127	6,233	4,668	—
1877 - -	62,663	6,778	5,235	3,024

Legislation.

The number of Acts passed during the year was 15. Few, if any, call for special notice. They consisted of measures for annual supplies, demonetising the silver dollar, making Portsmouth a permanent port of entry, amending the Board of Health regulations, admitting foreign practitioners to Government medical districts, and providing for a medical superintendent of the yaws hospitals.

Education.

The report of the inspector of schools for 1877 has not yet been published, but he has assured me of the marked improvements in the schools of this Presidency, both in the average attendance and the standard of merit attained. Much of this is due to the hearty co-operation of the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan ministers, and I earnestly hope that in a few years the schools of the Presidency will compare favourably with those

of other islands. The general use of the patois amongst our people tends materially to retard and undo much of the good work of the school. English is often learned by rote, and being unused in the pupils' home it is soon forgotten.

General Remarks.

Notwithstanding the large number of able-bodied men who have left this Island in search of employment at the gold-fields of Bolivar, the exports, except sugar, the diminution of which is readily accounted for by unseasonable weather, are steadily on the increase. An active demand for cocoa stimulated a greater care of the present trees and the planting of fresh ones; the average export for 10 years, from 1866 to 1876, was 204,250 lbs., while that of 1876 reached 336,151 lbs.; and 1877, 367,146 lbs.

The export of coffee continues to improve; the average export for 10 years was 16,229 lbs., and 28,240 lbs. were shipped in 1876, and 35,382 lbs. in 1877. The Liberian coffee plants are thriving in many parts of the Island, but under the fostering care of the Honourable Doctor Imray, to whom the community is entirely indebted for the real establishment of the Liberian coffee-trees in Dominica, some of the early imported trees have borne fruit, and the Creole seeds have been sown and are coming up, and the plants showing every sign of vigour and health, while a quantity of Liberian coffee seeds has been imported by this gentleman, and I believe partially distributed, and numbers of young plants have been established. The native coffee is still suffering from blight, which hitherto has baffled the skill and patience of this patriotic gentleman, who has ever been foremost in endeavouring to develop new sources of industry. The Liberian coffee trees, although in close proximity to the native coffee, seem to bid defiance to the ravages of this sad scourge, while the luxuriance of foliage causes a painful contrast with the seared and shrivelled leaf of the native tree.

The cultivation of annatto is receiving more attention. An enterprising gentleman, Mr. Fadelle, the Provost-Marshal, has lately imported a mill and is likely to ship a considerable quantity in 1878. The price rules in the London market according to quality from 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per pound. The plant requires replanting every five or six years. The seed is crushed into a fine stiff paste, this is rolled in a large leaf and then immersed in water in butts or casks, when it is ready for shipment. This article is largely cultivated in the French Settlements of Guadaloupe and Guiana.

Lime juice commands continued attention, and a large quantity of concentrated juice finds its way to the American market, where larger profits are realised.

I would again draw attention to the advantages likely to be derived from the formation of a company of a limited capital, for the extended introduction of Liberian coffee and the growth of

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cocoa and limes. I have every reason to believe that the Government would give a grant of 500 acres, at a nominal rent, for the encouragement of the scheme. Land of the richest quality, a virgin soil, easily accessible to a secure shipping place, in a healthy locality, could be selected and a large return might confidently be expected.

During the year good results have been achieved with the yaws disease, and the medical superintendent, Doctor Nicholls, reports: "It cannot but be admitted that the recent working of the yaws "hospital has been most satisfactory. The people are being "cured of the disease, and at the same time they are being taught "to be cleanly in habit and person." The leeward coast of the Island is now nearly free from the disease, and in a few years it is to be hoped that in Dominica the yaws will be a thing of the past.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 14.

General Sir ARTHUR BORTON, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Palace, Valletta, June 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1877, to which I append, for your information, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON, General,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
SIR, June 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1877, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Legislation.

The Ordinances promulgated during the year 1877 were:—

"No. 1. To make some provisions in reference to the carrying "of certain knives or regular weapons."

No. 2. "To prevent sequestrations or seizures of letters in a "post office, except in certain cases."

No. 3. "To amend the Criminal Laws."

No. 4. "To provide for the more convenient administration of "the Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873."

No. 5. "For applying a sum not exceeding 18,812*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* to "the service of the year 1876;" and,

No. 6. "For applying a sum not exceeding 106,279*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* "to the service of the year 1878."

Establishments.

There were no important changes in the service during the year 1877.

Finance.

1. The gross revenue for 1877 was:—

	£	s.	d.
Local - - - - -	164,890	13	4¼
Crown Agents for the Colonies in London -	7,163	3	9
	172,053	17	1¼
2. The average revenue for the five years preceding 1877, after deducting all exceptional items was - - -	168,024	12	0
Deducting from the gross revenue of 1877 the products of land sales - -	1,982	2	1½
and sale of Government property - -	624	14	4
	26,061	6	5½
which are for investment in consols, the revenue of 1877 will be - - -	169,447	0	7¾

or 1,422*l.* 8*s.* 7¾*d.* above the average revenue of the five preceding years, and 4,840*l.* 19*s.* 4¼*d.**

3. The principal differences in the receipts of 1877, as compared with those of 1876, excluding the items of land and Government property sales, and of certain reimbursements to Government, were as follows:—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Customs - - - - -	—	8,594
Land sales - - - -	458	—
Land revenue - - - -	1,751	—
Reimbursement in aid of expenses - -	772	—
	2,981	8,594

* The revenue of 1876 was exceptionably high on account of an increase of 5,995*l.* in the Customs receipts of that year.

4. The provision for meeting the demands of 1877 was:—

Estimated Expenditure.

—	Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General estimates -	76,215 17 3	82,406 0 0	158,621 17 3
Supplementary estimates	1,250 19 9	24,263 17 2	25,514 16 11
	77,466 17 0	106,669 17 2	184,136 14 2

Actual Expenditure.

—	Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.
General estimates -	74,696 4 9	74,560 19 0	149,257 3 9
Supplementary estimates	1,024 15 1	19,746 2 7	20,770 17 8
	75,720 19 10	94,307 1 7	170,028 1 5

Military Expenditure.

The total cost of the Military Establishment for the year 1877, amounted to 296,757*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, of which this Colony has borne 5,000*l.*

Pensions.

The pensions chargeable on the revenues of this Colony amounted on the 31st December 1877 to 9,454*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The amount of pensions which lapsed on account of the death of pensioners was 687*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, and the new pensions granted amounted to 1,094*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*

Population.

The population of these Islands on the 31st December 1877 was as follows:—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.	—
Males -	65,873	9,290	75,163	Not including the Queen's troops.
Females -	66,413	9,506	75,919	
	132,286	18,796	151,082	

showing an increase of 1.812 individuals over the previous year, and of 9,762 during the last decennial period (1868–77).

The number of births and deaths during the year was as follows:—

	Births.	Deaths.
	No.	No.
Males - -	2,752	1,757
Females - -	2,535	1,717
	5,287	3,474

The marriages solemnized in these Islands amounted to 1,054.

Education.

University and Lyceums.—The number of students in the University and Lyceums was in 1877 as follows:—

	No.
University - - - - -	181
Lyceum of Valletta - - - -	446
Lyceum of Three Cities - - -	59
	686

Twenty-two students have been graduated in 1877, viz.:—

5 in theology.
11 „ jurisprudence.
6 „ medicine and surgery.

The cost of these educational establishments amounted in 1877 to 4,676*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*

Primary Schools.

The following table shows the number of the schools and pupils from 1850 to 1877:—

Year.	Schools.								Attendance.		
	Primary.		Infant.	Evening.	Secondary.		Sunday.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys and Girls.	Boys.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.				
1850	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	28	1,619	1,554	3,173
1855	18	18	2	1	1	—	—	40	1,904	2,045	3,949
1860	22	23	3	1	1	1	—	51	2,533	3,117	5,650
1865	28	29	3	2	1	1	3	67	2,900	3,099	5,999
1870	31	31	3	2	1	1	1	70	3,420	3,755	7,175
1875	37	37	3	2	1	1	10	91	3,759	4,036	7,795
1877	37	38	4	2	1	1	5	88	4,173	4,886	9,059

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The average daily attendance to school as compared with the average number of pupils on the rolls was in December 1877 as follows:—

—	On Rolls.	Daily Attendance.
	No.	No.
Boys - -	4,173	3,731
Girls - -	4,886	4,189
	9,059	7,920

The number of boys attending the classes of arts was on the 31st December 1877 53, viz.:—

Valletta School, wood engraving -	12 boys.
„ „ printing - -	6 „
Floriana, „ wood carving - -	8 „
Cottonera „ „ - -	15 „
Casal Luca, wood clock-work - -	12 „
	53

The total expense incurred for the primary schools during the year 1877 amounted to 5,768*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

Imports and Exports.

The Customs statistics for 1877 show under this head the following particulars:—

Imports.

Value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	£ 729,536	against	£ 639,258 in 1876.
And value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms -	6,261,711	„	11,252,778
	6,991,247	„	11,892,036

Exports.

Value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port -	£ 146,442	against	£ 113,037 in 1876.
And value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms -	6,162,407	„	10,905,275 „
	6,308,849	„	11,018,312 „

It is to be remarked that the above-mentioned sums refer only to articles subject to import duty in these Islands. There are no available sources from which to calculate, even roughly, the value and quantities of other imports or exports.

Public Works.

The amount expended on public works during the year 1877 was 34,751*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, including the cost of the lighting and cleansing of the streets.

Several useful works and repairs in public buildings, aqueducts, roads, &c. have been carried out, and most of them completed during the year.

Monte di Pieta.

The sums advanced on pledges during 1877 amounted to 37,622*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, viz. :—

—	Malta.			Gozo.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. On gold, silver, diamonds, &c. (No. 31,279 pledges).	32,584	0	6	1,416	2	1
2. On silk and cotton draperies, copper, &c. (No. 15,964 pledges).	1,651	13	2	137	3	0
3. On woollen draperies, &c. (No. 6,652 pledges)	807	17	4	25	5	5
Total - - -	35,043	11	0	1,578	10	6

The amount received by the Monte de Pieta for redemption of pledges was 34,843*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, viz. :—

—	Malta.			Gozo.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. On gold, silver, diamonds, &c. (No. 28,569 pledges).	31,005	0	6	1,415	9	1
2. On silk and cotton draperies, copper, &c. (No. 14,355 pledges).	1,511	17	8	133	1	2
3. On woollen draperies, &c. (No. 6,271 pledges)	756	6	2	22	5	2
Total - - -	33,273	4	4	1,570	15	5

Savings Banks.

The amount of deposits in the savings banks on the 31st of December 1877 was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*			
Malta -	203,778	19	5½	by	3,298	depositors.
Gozo -	9,354	0	8	„	225	„
Total -	213,133	0	1½	„	3,523	„

Meteorological.

The average rainfall of Malta and Gozo during the year was 26 inches against 14·11 in 1876.

The mean temperature of the year was 68°, the maximum being 93° (23rd and 24th August) and the minimum 45° (3rd March).

General Remarks.

The health of the Island was good throughout the year, and there was no epidemic disease.

The Customs receipts, which bring in nearly four-fifths of the revenue, notwithstanding the unprecedented amount obtained in 1876 when they amounted to 115,553*l.*, yielded in 1877 1,504*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* above the estimate calculated on the average receipts of the last three years, and only 330*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* below the average of the last 10 years. Taking into consideration, therefore, the special circumstances of the war, which caused a general depression of trade in Malta, as also the abandonment of the smallest enterprise, there was no alarming symptom at the end of 1877 of any prolonged falling off in the revenue, or of any permanent undesirable condition of the population.

In the shipping there was a considerable decrease, by which a loss of 1,139*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* was sustained. The trade with the East, owing to the war, was virtually extinct, and the harbour statistics between 26th December 1876 and 25th December 1877 showed the following falling off in arrivals :—In 1876, arrivals of steamers, 2,521 ; sailing vessels, 2,136. In 1877, steamers, 2,164 ; sailing vessels, 1,725 ; decrease in steamers, 357 ; in sailing vessels, 411. No doubt the above decrease and the absence of the fleet must have considerably depressed the prosperity of that part of the population, which (wives and families included) have been calculated at 60,000 persons, or about half the entire population of Malta, and who may be said to be entirely dependent upon the movement in the harbour for their existence.

Other depressions in the revenue of 1877 were,—under wheat 4,392*l.*, and under inferior wine 3,403*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* This latter had been anticipated ; the vintage of 1876 had been full up to its average yield in Sicily, but not so on continental wine giving countries, and Italy had entered the Sicilian market as a purchaser. This circumstance naturally raised the price, for the demand for wine in 1877 had risen to a third more than the entire yield of the vintage ; hence the falling off in the imports and the above quoted loss to the revenue.

Much progress was made in the drainage and sewage works, to the cost of the execution of which the Imperial Government have agreed to pay three-sevenths against four-sevenths local ; and it is calculated that in a year's date from the present time the drainage works on the Three City side of the harbour will have been completed, leaving only the Valetta side for completion. This work is one of vital importance, not only to the local com-

munity, but to the health of the Imperial forces, and the works are being very ably and vigorously carried out under the superintendence of Colonel Wray, the Commanding Royal Engineer. MALTA.

The reconstruction of the Theatre Royal was completed, and this beautiful building re-opened to the public on the 15th of October.

The Island has been perfectly quiet during the year 1877.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To his Excellency
General Sir Arthur Borton, K.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 15.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart., M.P.

SIR, St. Helena, March 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book returns for the year 1877.

The revenue for the year, which was estimated at 12,780*l.*, amounted to 12,781*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* Under the head of customs the estimate was 10,000*l.*, the receipts 9,807*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* The estimate was made in anticipation of an increase in the tariff as reported in my despatch No. 48 of 31st October 1876 which did not take effect, and the collections were made under the old tariff. This tariff had yielded only 9,554*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* in 1876, and of this amount 1,447*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* was derived from 13 vessels discharging for repairs. In 1877, notwithstanding there were only six of such vessels paying 438*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, the total for customs in that year exceeded that of 1876 by the amount before stated, owing to an increase in the general trade and imports.

The receipts for postage amount to 529*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* In 1876 the postage was 1,102*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, but this included 779*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* collected as a subsidy to the mail steamers. In 1877 under the new mail contract the share of subsidy to the mail steamers is settled for through the London office, and only the net revenue is received at the Colonial Treasury.

The other heads of revenue call for no remark.

The expenditure for 1877 (excluding 750*l.* for debentures) amounted to 12,256*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.*, as against 12,579*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.* in

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1876. The reduction would have been much more considerable if the expenditure for 1877 had not included payments at the Cape of Good Hope on account of pensions, and also a mail subsidy, which belong rather to the service of the preceding year. A number of the pensioners reside at the Cape of Good Hope, and are paid in that Colony. No claim was made for such advances in 1876, but in the present year the account has been brought up to the latter part of 1877, including two years' payments, and causing an apparent increase in the charge for pensioners of 438*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* over the estimate. The amount also of 387*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* paid to the mail company in January 1877 was for services rendered in the preceding year. All future payments on this account will be made by the London office, which under the new contract retains the share of postage appropriated for this service.

In addition to the above expenditure the outstanding debt has been lessened by the annual payment of 750*l.* off the debentures, which are now reduced to 13,000*l.*, and a sum also of 5,000*l.* due to the Bank of England for advances made in former years, has been paid off by a Parliamentary grant.

The under-mentioned reductions in the establishment have been effected during the course of the year.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In the salary of Colonial Surgeon - - -	220	0	0
„ „ Wardmaster, Civil Hospital -	134	10	0
„ „ Treasury officer - - -	200	0	0
	£554	10	0

These savings will take full effect in the current year (1878), when the whole of the expenditure (exclusive of 750*l.* for reduction of debt) will not exceed 11,000*l.*

In October last I reported the criminal misconduct of Mr. ——, the Treasury officer, who had embezzled the sum of 2,167*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* out of balances retained in the chest for the savings bank. He was tried and convicted at the last January sessions, and is now undergoing his sentence in the gaol at James' Town.

Under the decree of the Acting Chief Justice a sale was made of his property real and personal, which amounted to 757*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, of which 525*l.* with interest was due to Government on account of his bond to the Widows Fund, and the balance has been paid into the Colonial Treasury. A saving has been effected of 200*l.* per annum by the transfer of his duty to Mr. Knipe, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, and the pension to which he was otherwise entitled has been forfeited and will be saved to the Colony.

The trade of the Island has shown some improvement as compared with the year 1876. The imports in 1877 amount to 71,125*l.*, exclusive of 82,600*l.* for oil transhipped at the port from the Southern Whale Fishery; the amounts in 1876 being respectively 49,504*l.* and 38,040*l.*, and the total number of ships 664 in 1877 against 582 in 1876.

The exports amount to 2,143*l.* It has already been pointed out that the Island possessed no export trade of its own until recently, when efforts have been made both to establish the growth of fibre for exportation and also a whale fishery; 243 bales of fibre were prepared and exported in 1877 against 110 bales in 1876, and there will be a further extension of these works in the present year. The whale fishery, which afforded 5,600*l.* in 1876, returned 5,800*l.* in 1877, but as the shipment of the oil taken in 1877 has been delayed, the latter sum does not appear in the customs returns of exports for 1877.

The school returns show 1,147 pupils, or nearly the same as former years, and the management of the several public schools continues to be satisfactory.

The criminal returns show five convictions for indictable offences in the Supreme Court and 271 cases of summary convictions before the magistrates, or nearly 100 less than last year, in which the number of convictions against seamen from the passing shipping was larger than usual.

The returns of deaths, although favourable enough as compared with most other places, are unfavourable as compared with the last two years. The deaths in 1875 and 1876 were 50 and 69, whilst in 1877 98 deaths occurred, but of these 55 were infants, and the increase was caused chiefly by inflammatory catarrhs, the only epidemic from which the Island occasionally suffers.

The cases treated in hospital were 184 or 43 more than in 1876; 57 of these were severe cases of intermittent fever landed from vessels homeward bound from Mauritius and Java, where the fever had been contracted. There were also several cases of serious fracture of limbs caused to seamen by falls from aloft. Many of the seamen landed from the passing ships from these two causes were in such a condition that death must have soon ensued without speedy medical aid, but the relief afforded to them in the hospital at this Island was happily the means of preserving life in every one of these cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 16.

Lieut.-Governor Lees, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
Sir, June 13, 1878.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Settlements on the Gold Coast for the year 1877, with a report from Captain Moloney, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) C. C. Lees,
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P. Lieut.-Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretariat, Christiansborg,
Sir, June 5, 1878.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Settlement on the Gold Coast for 1877, and to submit the following report on its contents.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The taxes during the year are the same as those in force in 1876 with the addition of an ad valorem duty of 4 per cent. on all other goods of every description on which duties had previously not been paid.

The ad valorem duty came into force on the 13th January 1877.

There are certain additions and alterations in the tables of fees under the Supreme Court and Customs ordinances of 1876.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for 1877 was 93,347*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.* and the expenditure on the votes of the year was 82,741*l.* 13*s.* 5¾*d.*, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of 10,605*l.* 16*s.* 7¾*d.* As compared with 1876 the revenue shows an increase of 28,559*l.* 6*s.* 6½*d.*, and the expenditure a decrease of 11,252*l.* 8*s.* 5¼*d.* The following table shows the receipts of the two past years.

Heads of Receipt.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs, specific - -	51,021 8 7	73,176 3 7½	22,154 15 0½	—
„ ad valorem -	—	8,249 5 0	8,249 5 0	—
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court - -	6,314 12 1	3,269 9 4½	—	3,045 2 8½
Hospital receipts - -	39 2 6	3 0	—	38 19 6
Colonial share of ocean postage - -	144 18 9	232 19 8	88 0 11	—
Inland postage - -	19 16 1	28 0 2	8 4 1	—
Colonial share of commission on money orders -	30 19 3	17 11 9	—	13 7 6
Profit on sale of gold dust transmitted to Crown agents - - -	181 15 11	196 19 10	15 3 4	—
Sale of Government property - - -	91 15 8	162 14 2	70 18 6	—
Auctioneer's license -	50 0 0	50 0 0	—	—
Marriage license - -	3 3 0	3 3 0	—	—
Liquor license - -	3,077 5 0	3,037 0 0	—	40 5 0
Interest on investment, England - -	1,982 15 2	472 11 8	—	1,510 3 6
Other petty receipts -	830 18 8	1,445 12 9	614 14 1	—
Overpayments, &c. refunded - - -	999 12 11	3,005 16 1½	2,006 3 2½	—
Total - -	64,788 3 7	93,347 10 1½	33,207 4 9	4,647 18 2½

Of the above increases and decreases, those most noticeable are explained as follows:

The increase under the head of "Customs, Specific" is attributable to larger importation of spirits and tobacco and to less illicit trade, which received a strong check in June 1877 as reported to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Despatch, Gold Coast, No. 154, of 12th June 1877.

The ad valorem duty only came into force in January of the previous year, and amounted to 8,249*l.* 5*s.*

A decrease of 3,045*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* as compared with previous year is shown under the head "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court." This is accounted for from the facts that in 1876, 3,087*l.* were realized on account of Ashantee Indemnity (500 oz. of gold dust) as reported in Despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Gold Coast, No. 11, of 10th January 1876, and 1,287*l.* from King Doosoo of Addah for plunder of the brig "Bryn-y-Mor."

Under the head of Interest on Investments there is shown a decrease of 1,510*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* This is thus explained that the greater part of the Exchequer Bills, in which was invested the grant made by Parliament to the Gold Coast in 1874, was realised. Hence reduced interest on the balance remaining invested.

Revenue under the head of "Petty Receipts" is always variable.

Over payments refunded is properly not a source of revenue, being, really, advances repaid; the major part under this head in 877 being on account of advances made by the Gold Coast on

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account of the Settlement of Lagos. This matter will be properly adjusted in future.

The expenditure for the two last years is shown in the following table:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1876.	Expenditure, 1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
Establishments.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	41,402 14 2	43,627 9 0	2,224 14 10	—
„ provisional and temporary	2,119 17 9	4,283 19 11	2,164 2 2	—
Allowances	2,143 15 7	2,012 15 3	—	131 0 4
Contingencies	78 6 0	493 11 9½	415 5 9½	—
Services exclusive of Establishments.				
Executive Council	—	29 6 8	29 6 8	—
Customs and Treasury	939 14 10	959 11 1	20 6 3	—
Post Office	138 6 6	54 17 7	—	83 8 11
Supreme Court	347 7 10	222 17 5	—	124 10 5
Magisterial	111 9 9	—	—	111 9 9
Charitable Allowances	55 11 3	62 7 4	6 16 1	—
Educational	125 0 0	200 0 0	75 0 0	—
Constabulary	2,593 16 6	2,348 10 6	—	245 6 0
Gaols	1,460 19 11	1,400 12 10	—	60 7 1
Public works and survey	17,223 12 0	2,068 15 4	—	15,154 16 8
New works	—	9,094 17 1	9,094 17 1	—
Medical	492 12 2	309 4 3	—	183 7 11
Sanitary	420 1 7	213 9 1	—	206 12 6
Marine	196 5 10	1,956 3 7½	1,759 17 9½	—
Rents	1,390 19 3	1,374 19 5	—	15 19 10
Transports	5,259 5 7	4,669 11 5¼	—	589 14 1¾
Aborigines	646 13 7	829 4 9	182 11 2	—
Up-keep of Agricultural Garden	6 12 0	7 16 0	1 4 0	—
Crown Agents' commission, and contingencies	470 18 5	359 4 6	—	111 13 11
Military allowances	152 14 6	181 16 9	29 2 3	—
Powder magazine	17 3 0	6 1 0	—	11 2 0
Refund of duties	347 8 8	137 9 3	—	209 19 5
Stationery for all departments	619 16 6	512 8 10	—	107 7 8
Water supply	600 15 4	747 17 0	147 1 8½	—
Special expenses	13,823 7 10	4,477 10 7	—	9,345 17 3
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities	706 19 9	99 5 2	—	607 14 7
Other payments	42 18 4	—	—	42 18 4
Grant in aid of constabulary officers' canteen	59 7 6	—	—	59 7 6
Total	93,994 1 11	82,741 13 5¾	16,150 5 9½	27,402 14 2¾

The most noticeable of these increases and decreases are explained as follows:—

The increase of 2,224*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* under the head of "Salaries, fixed" is consequent on enlargement of the Judicial Department, the increase to certain salaries, and the transfer of others from "temporary" to "fixed;" while the increase of 2,164*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* under the head "Provisional and Temporary" is due to the employment of special officers in the Public Works Department

whose salaries were charged properly under this head, and not as in 1876 under "Fixed Salaries."

The decrease under the head of "Public Works and Survey" is given as 15,154*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, while the increase (representing more correctly the actual expenditure under this heading) under the head of "New Works" is shown as 9,094*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* This is explained as follows, that in 1876 all expenditure on account of works both of an ordinary and extraordinary nature was shown under the former head; whereas in 1877 it was considered better to separate the ordinary current work from that classed as new and extraordinary work, and provide for them separately. The decrease in the whole in 1877 rightly amounts to 6,059*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, which is due to a reduction of the special engineer's staff and to the curtailment of expenditure.

The increase of 1,759*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.* under the head of marine includes 1,377*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* expended in England by the Crown agents for stores, insurance, &c. of the Colonial schooner "Roebuck" prior to her leaving for the Gold Coast.

There were less consignments during 1877 from England of materials and stores for the public works and other services, hence the decrease of 589*l.* 14*s.* 1¾*d.* under the head of transport. The decrease in Crown agents' commission is also attributable to this cause.

There is an increase of 209*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* during the year on account of "water supply." This is due to the erection of a condenser at Accra consequent on the removal in March of the head quarters of the Government.

Special expenses of an exceptional nature had to be incurred in 1876, viz., on account of grant to North German Mission, arrears of postage, refund of advances to the Lagos Government for 1874 and 1875, refund of advances made by the Sierra Leone Government on account of the Gold Coast, imperial stores, purchase of "Roebuck," compensation on account of damaged gunpowder, payment of fine on account of the plunder of the brig "Bryn-y-Mor." Thus the large decrease under this head is accounted for.

In 1876 exceptional payments made to Mr. Goldsworthy and gratuities to Colonel Foster and Mr. Butler, as also to the widows of certain public officers, account for the decrease under the head of gratuities.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt of the Gold Coast. The Imperial Parliament voted a grant in 1874-5 of 35,000*l.* with a view to the carrying out of certain special objects including the formation of telegraphs, buildings, and roads.

This vote was granted on the understanding that repayment of the grant of 35,000*l.* would be made to the Imperial Government should Colonial funds become available for that purpose.

During the year 1877, 15,000*l.* of the amount has been paid back to the Imperial Treasury.

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Military Expenditure.

The garrison of Cape Coast Castle, which at present is the only military station on the Gold Coast, consists of two companies of the 2nd West India regiment detailed as under, 1 captain, 5 lieutenants, 1 sub-lieutenant, 10 sergeants, 8 corporals, 4 drummers, 158 privates.

The amount expended during 1877 by Great Britain for the military protection and in aid of the civil establishment of the Gold Coast was 13,441*l.* 6*s.*, which was expended locally, exclusive of all regimental officers pay and the pay of departmental officers on leave which was drawn in England, also of the value of provision, ordinance, stores, clothing, &c.

In addition to the above there is a local defensive force of the settlement comprising the constabulary, which was estimated for in 1877 at a cost of 25,598*l.*

It comprised the inspector general, two first-class inspectors, the adjutant and musketry instructor, the artillery inspector, the pay and quarter-master, seven second-class inspectors, one native officer, and 810 non-commissioned officers and men, including clerk and interpreters.

The forts and redoubts garrisoned by the constabulary are Anamaboe Fort, Accra Fort, Quittah Fort, Elmina Castle, Secondee Fort, Dixcove Fort, Axim Fort, Mansue and Prahsue redoubts, with intermediate stations at the principal halting places occupied for the protection of traders.

Public Works.

The expenditure on account of public works mainly of an extraordinary nature, exclusive of the ordinary current expenditure on the Gold Coast during the year, has been 13,352*l.* 18*s.* 6¼*d.*, as compared with 15,945*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year. Of this expenditure 2,907*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* has been expended on salaries and allowances of engineer staff, and 10,445*l.* 9*s.* 0¼*d.* on services.

The principal works that have been completed are the road from Christiansborg to Aburi, where is situated the Government Sanitorium, a distance of 26 miles which can now be traversed by a carriage.

This work has been completed at a cost of 1,353*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.* The completion of Christiansborg Castle, the residence of the Governor, at a cost of 7,639*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* The completion of the iron suspension bridge over the Sweet River lying between Cape Coast and Elmina at a cost of 683*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

The principal works which remained unfinished at the end of last year, on which a considerable portion of the balance of expenditure had been spent, were the Colonial Secretary's quarters and offices, the renovation of Elmina Castle, and its adaptation to a barrack for the head quarters of the constabulary force, the conversion of St. Jago Fort at Elmina into a prison, the Sanitorium at Aburi, additions to the interior of Fort Ussher so as to provide accommodation for a strong detachment of Houssa constabulary, and the erection in Ussher Fort of quarters for two constabulary officers.

Legislation. GOLD COAST.

Eighteen Ordinances have been passed during the year, the principal of which are the following:—

No. 2. An Ordinance amending customs tariff ordinances.

No. 5. An Ordinance to consolidate the law relating to promissory oaths.

No. 6. An Ordinance to provide for the more convenient administration of "The Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873."

No. 8. An Ordinance consolidating customs tariff ordinances.

No. 12. An Ordinance to make provision relating to suits by and against the Government, and as to the costs thereof.

No. 13. An Ordinance for promoting the revision of the statute law by repealing certain enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary.

No. 14. An Ordinance to enable the Governor to permit in particular cases certain articles to be exported during the subsistence of any general prohibition of such exportation.

No. 15. An Ordinance to make better provision for the filling up of swamp lands in the town of Lagos.

No. 16. An Ordinance for regulating the relations between employers and employed under contracts.

No. 17. An Ordinance to provide for the levying of dues in aid of the erection and maintenance of light-houses in the Settlement on the Gold Coast.

No. 18. An Ordinance to provide for the registration and protection in certain other respects of alien children in Lagos.

Ordinance No. 2, had for its purpose the enactment of a 4 per cent. ad valorem in pursuance of the instructions contained in the Despatch from the Secretary of State, Gold Coast, No. 349, of the 7th November 1876.—"For the purpose of having all the "customs duties applicable to the Gold Coast contained in one "Ordinance, it was considered advisable to re-enact the existing "duties along with the ad valorem duty.—It was also considered "advisable to make more explicit provisions in this Ordinance as "to the exportation of warehouse goods and as to drawbacks."

The object of No. 5 Ordinance was:—

1st. To consolidate into one Ordinance applicable to the whole Colony the law of Promisory Oaths which had previously been contained in separate Ordinances of the Settlement on the Gold Coast and of Lagos.

2nd. To amend the law of Promisory Oaths by bringing it into precise conformity with the Royal Instructions issued upon the formation of the Colony in 1874.

Ordinance No. 8 had for its object the consolidating the customs tariff Ordinances in the Settlement of Lagos. "The "effect of this Ordinance was to collect and re-enact the out-"standing result of ten Lagos Ordinances. The only alterations "consist in making proof strength the maximum strength at "which spirits in wood may be imported without additional duty "being chargeable, instead of five per cent over proof, which was "made the maximum by the Lagos Ordinance No. 8, of 1st

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" August 1865, and in extending somewhat the list of free goods " enacted by the Ordinance of 6th January 1874."

Ordinance No. 12 has for its object to make provision relating to suits by and against the Government.

" The purpose of this Ordinance is to make provision for the " trial, and determine in the Colonial courts, of claims preferred " against the Government or of either of the Settlements, of such " a nature as would if preferred against the Crown in England be " tried or determined by petition of right." The absence of such a provision would have produced inconvenience to the executive when claims for the nature indicated happened to arise.

The general purpose of Ordinance No. 13 is " to remove from " the Statute Book those Ordinances of the former separate " legislatures of the Settlements on the Gold Coast and of Lagos, " which, either from the periods to which they were applicable " having expired, or their purposes having been accomplished, or " their provisions having been superseded by late enactments, it " has become unnecessary to retain, but which, not having been " expressly repealed, swell the bulk of the statutes and embarrass " persons seeking to know the local law in force upon particular " subjects."

Ordinance No. 14 became necessary as a step in the consolidation and amendment of the law. By Ordinance No. 9 of 1871 (Lagos), and an amending Ordinance, No. 1 of 1873 (Lagos), the Administrator of Lagos was empowered, 1st, to prohibit the exportation from that settlement of arms and ammunitions of war; 2ndly, notwithstanding the existence of any such general prohibition, to permit in particular cases the exportation of arms or other munitions.

The first of these purposes was accomplished throughout the jurisdiction of the Gold Coast Colony by the 139th section of the Gold Coast Customs Ordinance, 1876, and the relative penal and prohibitive clauses of that Ordinance.

The second purpose was provided for throughout the jurisdiction (there having been no such provision previously in the case of the Gold Coast) by the present Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 15 is one of " exclusive application to the town " of Lagos, and its object is to facilitate the filling of low and " swampy places within the town, which are both prejudicial to " health and circumscribe the space available for building sites."

Ordinance No. 16 is founded on the Imperial Act, " the " Master and Servant Act, 1867." " Its intention may be stated " generally, to afford facilities to persons so disposed for entering " into the relations of employers and employed under contracts of " service, and to make provision as to the enforcement of such " contracts, and the determination of questions arising under " them.

" Previous to the promulgation of the emancipation scheme " contracts of service were not unknown in the Gold Coast and " adjacent Protectorate. They were in use of course in the case " of European employers, and also, although in a less proportion,

"in the case of natives of Africa who were not natives of the Gold "Coast resorting here for purposes of trade, and occasionally the "wealthier natives of the Gold Coast resident in the coast towns "would follow the European example when they might require "the assistance of workmen possessing knowledge of some craft "which was not found amongst the members of their own "households.

"These instances were but limited in their range and it may be "fairly stated that contracts of service did not constitute an "incident of native life properly so called.

"But when the emancipation of the slaves had shut off the "springs of enforced service, the idea became then suggested of "facilitating by legislative enactment the formation of voluntary "contracts in all departments of labour intended to be applicable "to the situation of those parties who were already in use to enter "into such contracts, but more particularly to introduce and "familiarize the system of contract service amongst those who "hitherto had not been acquainted with it, or at the most but "slightly and imperfectly so.

"It is in this light that the present Ordinance takes the position "of a measure complementary to the emancipation Ordinances of "1874."

Ordinance No. 17 had for its object the affixing of dues to the lights at Cape Three Points, Cape Coast, and Accra, and the providing of the means for the levying thereof subject to the approval of Her Majesty in Council.

Ordinance No. 18 provides for the compulsory registration at Lagos of all children of African parentage, wherever born, who at any time are in Lagos and are not registered there under the Registration Ordinance of 1863. It prohibits the transfer of the custody of any such child from one person to another without its being registered, and the removal of any registered child from Lagos without the permission of the Governor, and makes other provisions.

This Ordinance has for its main object the prevention of slave traffic between the Settlement of Lagos and the surrounding countries thereto, or of the settlement itself being made use of as a medium for such traffic.

Civil Establishment.

The following appointments have been made during the year: Captain C. A. Moloney to be Assistant Colonial Secretary of the Colony; Dr. J. H. Jeans, Assistant Colonial Surgeon of Lagos, to be Colonial Surgeon on the Gold Coast; Drs. G. F. Schott, W. A. MacKellar, and C. S. Grant to be Assistant Colonial Surgeons; Mr. W. Melton to be Assistant Collector of Customs.

Five assistant inspectors of constabulary have been appointed, viz., Messrs. E. W. G. Gardiner, L. Wyatt, C. de Freville Green, A. B. Ellis, and E. T. M. Harper.

The staff of the Public Works Department was reduced by the appointment of Mr. W. T. G. Lawson to be Assistant Colonial

GOLD COAST.

Surveyor at Lagos, and by the return to England, on completion of agreement, of Mr. A. H. Baxter, foreman of works.

There were three deaths among the European officers during the year, viz., Assistant Inspector Rosser on the 7th April, Dr. J. Stuckey on the 10th May, and Dr. Schott on the 25th October.

Four officers were invalided to England, viz., Lieutenant W. J. Tydd, Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Governor; Mr. R. Butler, Collector and Treasurer; Mr. L. G. Hay, Adjutant and Musketry Instructor of the Constabulary, and Mr. E. W. G. Gardiner, Assistant Inspector of the Constabulary.

In the previous year seven officers were invalided to England, of whom two died.

Population, Marriages, Births, and Deaths.

The number of the population of the Gold Coast is wholly unascertained. The last estimate thereof was 400,000.

The following return will show the comparative decrease and increase during the two previous years in the births, marriages, and deaths of the different religious denominations on the Gold Coast.

Return of Births.

Religious Denomination.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
Church of England - -	22	17	—	5
Wesleyan - - -	1,268	505	—	763
Basel Mission - - -	156	173	17	—

Return of Marriages.

Religious Denominations.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
Church of England - -	3	2	—	1
Wesleyan - - -	291	210	—	81
Basel Mission - - -	48	48	—	—

Return of Deaths.

Religious Denominations.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
Church of England -	14	14	—	—	
Wesleyan - -	—	—	—	—	Information not received.
Basel Mission -	61	86	25	—	

Churches, Livings, &c.

The following return of churches and clergy for 1877 is compiled from the information received from the different missions:—

Religious Denominations.	Number of Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.		Number of Persons generally attending.	Remarks.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.		
Church of England -	1	1	400	300	Cape Coast.
Basel Mission -	14	25	3,940	2,600	
Wesleyan Mission -	13	81	8,835	30,580	

Education.

There is but one Government school on the Gold Coast, which is at Cape Coast. Education is mainly carried on by the Basel and Wesleyan Missionary Societies.

The following particulars are taken from the educational returns rendered by the different missions:—

Religious Denomination.	Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars on the Rolls.	Remarks.
Church of England, Cape Coast.	1876	1	6	213	Government.
Ditto - -	1877	1	5	197	Ditto.
Basel Mission - -	1876	34	48	1,080	
Ditto - -	1877	42	65	1,182	
Wesleyan Mission - -	1876	70	73	2,651	
Ditto - -	1877	82	80	2,600	

The cost of the Government school at Cape Coast during the year was 312*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

The expenditure on account of the Basel and Wesleyan Missionary schools is given as 4,000*l.* nearly and 2,394*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* respectively.

An annual grant of 100*l.* each is made by the Government in aid of the schools of the Basel and Wesleyan missionaries.

Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value of the imports to and exports from the Gold Coast in the year 1877, as compared with 1876:—

Countries.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.		Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	364,730	244,420	352,505	268,722	—	120,310	—	83,783
British Colonies -	—	4,226	9,874	9,124	4,226	—	—	750
Foreign countries	81,357	78,627	102,888	109,155	—	2,730	6,267	—

The falling off in the imports is mainly due to smaller consignments of cotton goods received from England, consequent, no doubt, on the imposition of the *ad valorem* duty of 4 per cent. at the beginning of the year. The value of the imports under this head for 1876 and 1877 is 199,510*l.* and 105,241*l.* respectively.

The following figures give the value of the exports to the United Kingdom of gold dust, palm kernels, and palm oil during the year, and thus show the causes for the decrease:—

Articles.	1876.	1877.
	£	£
Gold dust - -	62,208	38,199
Palm kernels - -	48,630	34,848
Palm oil - - -	226,482	181,350

Shipping.

The total number of sailing vessels entered on the Gold Coast for 1877 was 93, with a tonnage of 23,727, and crews which amounted to 1,047. In the previous year these numbers were respectively 85, 20,938, and 925.

Of the vessels entered in 1877, 48 were British and 45 foreign.

Of the gross tonnage (23,727), 12,331 were foreign. The same number of sailing ships, with corresponding tonnage, cleared outwards during the year.

The total number of steamers entered on the Gold Coast for 1877 was 47, with a tonnage of 49,754, and crews which amounted to 2,136.

The same number of steamers, with corresponding tonnage, cleared during the year.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total number of persons committed in 1877 was 740, viz., 691 men and 49 women.

The Supreme Court Ordinance only came into operation in April 1877, consequently the criminal statistics for the year embrace only the period from 1st May to 31st December.

Hospitals and Asylum.

During the year 1877, 484 patients were admitted into the Colonial Hospital, Cape Coast. Of these 480 were males and 4 females. These figures show an increase of 76 patients over the number returned for 1876.

Seven deaths took place in the hospital during the year, compared with 10 in the previous year.

The principal diseases treated during the year were intermittent and remittent fevers, kraw-kraw, skin diseases, Guinea worm, and ulcerations.

The total cost of the medical department to the Government for the year was 2,154*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency C. C. Lees, C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor, Gold Coast Colony.

Lagos.

LAGOS.

No. 17.

Lieutenant-Governor Lees, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Government House, Lagos, July 19, 1878.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the annual Blue Book for this Settlement for the year 1877, together with a report upon the same by Captain Richmond, the Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Malcolm J. Brown,
Acting Administrator.

His Excellency
Lieut.-Governor Lees, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Assistant Colonial Secretariat, Lagos,
July 10, 1878.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, in accordance with usual custom, the Blue Book for this Settlement for the year 1877, accompanied by a brief report touching upon points that seem to require remark.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the past year amounted to 59,397*l.*, being 12,949*l.* in excess of the year 1876, and 13,142*l.* beyond the estimated revenue for the year. This increase is to be accounted for by the increased trade brought to Lagos in consequence of the blockade of the Dahomian Coast, which could not have been anticipated to continue so long.

The expenditure amounted to 42,305*l.*, being 17,092*l.* within the revenue, and 2,125*l.* in excess of the amount estimated.

The available cash balance on the 31st of December 1877 amounted to 27,517*l.*, 20,000*l.* of which has been since invested in 3 per cent. consols, leaving the remaining amount as a floating cash balance with the Crown Agents.

Public Works.

The outlay on public works amounted to 4,228*l.* 10*s.*, principally devoted to the ordinary maintenance and repairs, with the exception of the erection of a public market at Faji, which cost upwards of 450*l.* during the year.

Ordinances.

The following Ordinances more especially affecting this Settlement have been passed during the year, viz.:—

No. 10 of 1877.—"An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain expenditure out of the revenue of the Settlement of Lagos, required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of that Settlement for the year 1877."

No. 12 of 1877.—"An Ordinance to make provision relating to suits by, and against, the Government, and as to the costs thereof."

No. 13 of 1877.—"An Ordinance for promoting the revision of the Statute Law by repealing certain enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary."

No. 14 of 1877.—"An Ordinance to enable the Government to permit, in particular cases, certain articles to be exported during the subsistence of any general prohibition of such exportation."

No. 15 of 1877.—"An Ordinance to make provision for the better filling up of swamp lands in the town of Lagos."

No. 16 of 1877.—"An Ordinance for regulating the relations between employers and employed under contracts."

No. 18 of 1877.—"An Ordinance to provide for the registration and protection in certain other respects of alien children in Lagos."

Staff.

No change that calls for remark.

Foreign Consuls.

The only foreign powers represented in Lagos are Germany and Denmark, for whom Mr. W. Heldbek is consul for the German Empire, and Mr. H. J. Wadeson was consul for Denmark until his death in January last (1878).

Population.

The population of the town of Lagos is roughly calculated at between 32,000 and 33,000, and if the neighbouring population under British protection be taken into account, the total is supposed to be about 60,000.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

The following statement will show the respective numbers for 1877:—

Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
201	61	656

The number of marriages here given shows those solemnised according to the forms of the Christian churches.

Education and Ecclesiastical.

Under the head of education a sum of 600*l.* has been equally divided during the year among the three principal religious societies, who have done useful service in educating all branches of the native community.

The number at present under tuition in the elementary schools of the various religious bodies is nearly 2,500, as against 1,800 of last year, and are divided as follows, viz. :—

Church Missionary Society - -	1,123
Wesleyan Missionary Society - -	992
Roman Catholic Mission - - -	280
Baptists - - - - -	49
Total - -	2,444

There are altogether 14 churches and chapels in which divine service is performed.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports for the year 1877 was 614,359*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, and the exports 734,707*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of 137,546*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* and 115,443*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* respectively over the past year.

Shipping.

The number of ships entered amounted to 343, giving a total tonnage of 161,450 tons. The ships cleared numbered 344, giving a total tonnage of 158,212 tons. These figures are irrespective of the weekly mail steamers.

Post Office.

The number of letters received for delivery from the Post Office, Lagos, amounted to 10,868, and letters posted at the same office for local delivery and for Europe to 21,367. Money orders were also issued on the United Kingdom to the amount of 4,062*l.* 5*s.*, and on Sierra Leone to the amount of 1,093*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* The money orders payable in Lagos are still few, and of small amount, having been during the past year only 64*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* orders issued in Great Britain, and 610*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* issued in Sierra Leone.

Crime.

Number of summary convictions 739, number of prisoners committed for trial 111.

Judicial.

The Ordinance No. 4 of 1876, "for the constitution of a " supreme court, and for other purposes relating to the adminis-

" tration of justice," came into operation at Lagos on the 4th April 1877, and by affording to the public the advantages of a well defined system of legal procedure, has tended to promote the better administration of justice in this Settlement. LAGOS.

Medical and Sanitary.

There are two hospitals, one for general purposes and one in an isolated position for small-pox. The patients treated in the former during the year were 9,627.

The health of the European and native population has been on the whole good during the year 1877.

The stringent carrying out of the compulsory Vaccination Ordinance, together with improved drainage and reclamation of swamp lands, have no doubt contributed much to this satisfactory result.

Relations with Neighbouring Tribes.

The state of trade has been generally good; supplies of palm oil and palm kernels have continued to come in satisfactorily, and the relations of the Government with the neighbouring tribes continue upon a satisfactory footing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. F. RICHMOND, Captain,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Malcolm J. Brown,
Acting Administrator, Lagos.

New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 18.

The Registrar-General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Office,
Sydney, August 15, 1877.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the statistics of the Colony for the year 1876.

Part I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1875 was 606,652 persons, that for the same time at the end of the year 1876 was 629,776 persons, showing an increase of 23,124 souls, or 3·81 per cent.

The increase for the first six months of the year amounted to 10,514 persons, and for the remaining period of the year to 12,610 persons. Of the total population the number of males was 65,962 in excess of females; the per-centage for the former being 55·24, and for the latter 44·76, a difference of 10·48 in favour of males. To every 1,000 persons then there were 552 males and 448 females, which shows an increase of two males in the 1,000 on the previous year. For the first six months of the year there were 11,335 births, and 17,588 persons who arrived in the Colony by sea, a gross total of 28,923, from which I deduct 6,170 deaths for the same period, and the departures by sea 12,239, in all 18,409, which leaves a net increase of 10,514 persons. During the last six months of the year the births numbered 11,963, and arrivals by sea 15,354, being a total of 27,317 persons. The deaths for this period were 5,023, and departures by sea, 9,684, both together amounting to 14,707 persons. The net increase then will be 12,610 persons.

The total addition to our population during the last 10 years amounts to 182,156 persons, of which number only 13,490, or about 7½ per cent., are shown to have been immigrants who arrived in the Colony from the United Kingdom.

Marriages.

From the quarterly table of marriages we find that of the total number (4,630) celebrated during the year, there were 1,264, or 27·30 per cent., in Sydney, 463, or 10 per cent., in the suburbs, and 2,903, or 62·70 per cent., in the country districts. In comparison with the previous year, there were more marriages in the city and suburbs, and fewer in the country districts.

The ratio of marriages for every 1,000 persons of estimated population in the middle of the year is, for the city, 13·55; suburbs, 6·26; and country, 6·45. For the whole Colony the

ratio per 1,000 is 7·51, the average of the previous nine years being 7·81. Looking at the table which distinguishes the nnmber of marriages celebrated by the various denominations and by the registrars, we see that the Church of England heads the list with 1,759; Roman Catholic, 921; Presbyterian, 761; Wesleyan, 487; Congregationalist, 232; Primitive Methodist, 101; registrars, 275; and the balance is made up by other denominations, with double figures only. Those denominations which show an increase on the previous year are as follows:—Church of England, 141, and Congregationalist, 46; registrars' offices also show an increase of 25. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following denominations show a decrease, viz.:—Roman Catholic, 32; Presbyterian, 145; Wesleyan, 15; Primitive Methodist, 8. Of the total number of marriages then, the Church of England celebrated 37·97 per cent.; Roman Catholic, 19·89; Presbyterian, 16·44; Wesleyan, 10·52; Congregationalist, 5·01; Primitive Methodist, 2·18; and registrars, 5·95.

The total number of births registered during the year 1876 was 23,298, consisting of 11,791 males and 11,507 females, the former being 284 in excess of the latter. The per-centage of males is 50·61, and of females 49·39. The increase in the number of births on the previous year is as follows:—Males, 411; females, 359; in all, 770. The birth rate of the Colony per 1,000 of estimated population at the middle of the year was 37·75, being a slight decline on the previous year. The average for the previous nine years was 39·58, so that the birth rate of 1876 was nearly two per 1,000 lower than this average. Of the number of births registered in the city, the per-centage of males was 51·18, and of females, 48·82. In the suburbs female births were in excess of male, the per centage being 50·36 for the former, and 49·64 for the latter. The figures for the country districts are, for males, 50·67; for females, 49·32. The city birth rate was 35·48, being 1·44 lower than the figures for the previous nine years' average. In the suburbs the average for the previous nine years was 44·52, and the rate of the year, 41·39, showing a decline of 3·13. The rate for the country districts was 37·62, which is lower by 1·78 than the average of the nine previous years. Comparing the birth rate per 1,000 of population of the three divisions with the rate of the previous year, we find the city and country were nearly stationary, while the suburbs show an increase of 0·50. Births.

The total number of deaths recorded in the year 1876 was 11,193. In each of the quarters of the year the numbers were as follows:—March, 3,012; June, 3,158; September, 2,636; December, 2,387. Male deaths numbered 6,508, or 58·14 per cent.; and females 4,685, or 41·86 per cent.—the former being 16·82 per cent. higher than the latter. Taking the total number of deaths in the city, we find that the per-centage of males is 52·91, and of females 47·09; in the suburbs, males 50·50, females 49·50; in the country, males 61·84, females 38·16. The excess of male over female deaths in the city is 5·82 Deaths.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

per cent.; in the suburbs, 1·00 per cent.; and in the country, 23·68 per cent. The death rate per 1,000 of estimated population of the Colony was 18·13, the previous year being 18·12. The average rate for previous nine years was 15·18, so that the rate of the year under report is 2·95 higher than that average. The city death rate for the year was 26·70, which is lower than the figures of the previous year by 3·06, but higher by 3·19 than the previous nine years' average. The suburbs show a rate of 22·81, which is only 0·34 lower than the previous year, and 4·13 in excess of the average for the previous nine years. In the country districts the rate was 15·59, which is 0·70 over the year preceding, and 2·67 higher than the average of the previous nine years.

Immigration.

The number of immigrants who arrived in the Colony from the United Kingdom during the year 1876 was 2,113. Of this number, 1,463 were introduced at the public expense, and 650 arrived by their own means. These arrivals consisted of 1,597 adults and 516 children, the former class comprising 988 males and 609 females, and the latter 280 males and 236 females. About 75 per cent. of the immigrants at the public expense were Protestants, and the remainder Roman Catholics. With regard to their nationality, we find that 57·48 per cent. were from England and Wales, 12·85 per cent. from Scotland, 27·83 per cent. from Ireland, and 1·84 per cent. from other countries.

Lunatic and invalid establishments.

The total number of patients admitted into the hospital for the insane at Gladesville during the year 1876 was 340, of which number there were 279 new admissions, and 61 are shown to be re-admissions. There were 982 patients under treatment during the year, consisting of 566 males and 416 females. The average number of residents was 610, made up of 342 males and 268 females. The per-centage of recoveries on admissions was 44·11, that for males being 39·90, and for females 50·36. The figures for those relieved during the year are 9·41 per cent.; males, 6·89, and females 13·13. The deaths were 7·05 per cent. on the average number of residents. The asylum for free lunatics at Parramatta admitted 88 patients, all males and fresh cases. The number of cases under care consisted of 582 males and 206 females, in all 788. The average number of residents during the year was 733, males 532, and females 201. There were 3·40 per cent. of patients admitted during the year who recovered, and 2·27 were relieved. The deaths in this establishment were 6 per cent. on the average number of residents. In the crminal lunatic asylum at Parramatta we find that the total number of patients under care was 82, viz.:—70 males and 12 females, and the average nnmber of residents was 69. The recoveries on the admissions of the year were 44·44 per cent., and the death rate was 5·79. The number of patients under care in the Asylum for Imbeciles at Newcastle was 203, and the average number of residents 175. Bay View House Asylum had a total of 147 patients under treatment, and an average of 119 were residents. The total number of patients under treatment in

lunatic and invalid establishments during the year 1876 was 2,202, showing an increase of 168 on the returns for the previous year. The ratio per 1,000 of estimated population was 3·56, as against 3·42 in the previous year. The cost to the Government of maintaining these establishments was 49,610*l.*, less the sum of 1,863*l.* received from friends and relations of patients for their maintenance and paid into the Treasury. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The returns for the hospitals of the Colony show a total of 5,833 admissions for the year 1876, being an increase of 267 on the year preceding. This increase arises chiefly from country hospitals, as the figures for the Sydney Infirmary are 150 below those for the year 1875. There were 730 deaths in hospitals during the year, of which number 304 occurred in the Sydney Infirmary. The number of deaths in hospitals amount to about 12½ per cent. of admissions, and the rate for the Sydney Infirmary was 13·21. Those who received out-door relief numbered 9,407 persons, of whom 6,090 appear on the return from the Sydney Infirmary, and 2,600 from St. Vincent's Hospital. The total amount of receipts on behalf of hospitals was 43,885*l.*, of which sum 22,238*l.* was supplied by the Government and the balance from voluntary contributions. More than one-half of the total sum expended by the Government was assigned to the Sydney Infirmary. St. Vincent's Hospital appears as the only one that receives no aid from the public purse; the total receipts for the year being 2,268*l.* Hospitals.

During the year there were 1,875 adults and 364 children admitted into benevolent asylums, being an increase of 155 and 141 respectively. Those discharged were 1,436 adults and 330 children; and the number of deaths was 369 and 22 respectively. There were also 60 persons who received out-door relief, and 2,654 cases were dealt with in like manner. The total receipts of these establishments amounted to 26,121*l.*, of which sum the Treasury provided 23,698*l.*, and voluntary contributions 2,423*l.* The receipts for the year for two benevolent societies* amounted to 511*l.*, of which 208*l.* was obtained from the Government. Benevolent asylums and societies.

We find that the total number of inmates in these establishments at the end of the year was 1,817, comprising 1,017 males and 800 females. The receipts were as follows,—from the Government 22,411*l.*, and from private sources 7,647*l.*, in all 30,058*l.* No return has been furnished from the Female Protestant Training School for domestic servants, *vide* foot-note to page 9 of Statistical Register, 1876. Orphan and industrial schools.

In addition to the foregoing institutions there were six others, whose united receipts for the year amounted to 4,621*l.* One of these, the Sydney Sailors' Home, gives no return of receipts. The general total amount received during the year 1876 by the charitable institutions of the Colony was 154,807*l.*,† which is a sum less by 5,554*l.* than the figures for the previous year. Miscellaneous charitable institutions.

* At Bega and West Maitland.

† This amount is exclusive of voluntary receipts by the Bay View House Lunatic Asylum, Sydney Sailors' Home, and the Female Protestant Training School for domestic servants.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Wages, &c.

The following table shows the average rate of wages obtained in the Colony during the year 1876.

	Without Board and Lodging.	With Board and Lodging.
Males.		
Carpenters - - -	9*s.* to 11*s.* per diem.	104*l.* per annum.
Smiths - - - -	9*s.* to 10*s.* „	80*l.* to 90*l.* „
Wheelwrights - - -	10*s.* „	104*l.* to 126*l.* „
Bricklayers - - -	11*s.* „	——
Masons - - - -	11*s.* „	——
Farm labourers - - -	- - -	30*l.* to 35*l.* „
Shepherds - - -	- - -	30*l.* to 40*l.* „
Females.		
Cooks (plain) - - -	- - -	35*l.* to 52*l.* „
Housemaids - - -	- - -	26*l.* to 34*l.* „
Laundresses - - -	- - -	32*l.* to 45*l.* „
Nursemaids - - -	- - -	20*l.* to 32*l.* „
General house-servants - -	- - -	20*l.* to 45*l.* „
Farmhouse servants, dairy-women, &c. - - - -	- - -	20*l.* to 30*l.* „

PART II.

Religion, Education, Crime.

Ecclesiastical.

The return of churches and chapels shows that there were 611 ministers registered under Acts 30 and 34 of 19 Vict. The Church of England appears first on the list, with 196 ministers; Roman Catholic, 163; Presbyterian, 83; Wesleyan Methodist, 82; Congregational, 33; Baptist, 12; Primitive Methodist, 17: and every other denomination under the double figures. The total number of churches and chapels belonging to the various denominations was 1,150, which provided 188,548 individual sittings. The average attendance in churches and chapels was 155,762 persons, and in other places for public worship 35,258 persons, making a total of 191,020 persons. The sum of 22,681*l.* was received from the Government and church and school estates. This amount was divided between the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Methodist churches.

Sunday schools.

The number of Sunday schools in the Colony during the year 1876 was 1,058, in which there were 3,141 male and 3,958 female teachers employed, in all 7,099. The children on the registers numbered 77,462, of whom 36,379 were males and 41,083 females. The average attendance of children is given as 58,837.

Education—private schools.

During the year 1876 there were 543 private schools in operation; and the number of scholars was 18,430, consisting of 7,609 males and 10,731 females. The number of teachers was 278 males and 738 females, in all 1,016. The figures relating to these schools are very close to those for the previous year.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The number of children under instruction in these schools was 1,343, comprising 801 males and 542 females.

Orphan and industrial schools.

At the close of the year 1876 there were 503 public schools in existence, in which there were 881 teachers (males 560, females 321), and 64,494 children (males 34,429, females 30,065).

Council of Education—public schools.

As compared with the previous year we find an increase of 42 in the number of schools, of 85 in the number of teachers, and of 5,683 in the number of scholars. The amount received from fees and other sources was 39,973*l.*

Provisional schools.

These schools had increased from 262 in 1875 to 279 in 1876. The number of teachers shows a decrease from 264 to 254. The number of scholars was 9,196, which is an addition of 410 to the figures of the previous year. Fees and other contributions amounted to 4,396*l.*

Half-time schools.

Half-time schools show their number to have been 110, teachers 55, and scholars 2,265. Fees, &c. realised, 730*l.*

Denominational schools.

The number of these schools for the year 1876 was 181, which is a decrease of 10 on the previous year. The teachers had increased from 385 to 393, and the children from 34,509 to 35,314. The sum received as fees, contributions, &c. amounted to 18,467*l.*

The total sum expended on all schools under the Council of Education amounted to 335,305*l.*, of which 271,739*l.* was paid out of the Treasury, and 63,566*l.* was received as fees, voluntary contributions, and other sources. As compared with the previous year we find an increase of 112,823*l.* on the total sum expended, the Government making good 109,553*l.* of this amount, and fees, &c., 3,270*l.* The total number of those receiving instruction in all schools under the Council of Education was 111,269, showing an increase on the year 1875 of 6,813 scholars.

University, colleges, and grammar school.

In these seats of learning we find there were 494 students, the greater portion of whom (401) were of the grammar school. The sum paid from the Treasury towards maintenance was *11,298*l.*, of which sum 5,000*l.* was absorbed by the University. Amounts received as fees and from other sources came to 12,487*l.*, making a total of 23,785*l.*

The general total number of all who were receiving instruction in the Colony during the year 1876 was 131,620, showing an increase of 6,864 on the previous year.

Crime.

The total number of committals in the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Colony for the year 1876 was 338, of which 297 cases went to trial, the result being 221, or 74·41 per cent. convictions, and 76 or 25·59 per cent. acquittals. The Quarter Sessions cases for the year were as follows:—committals 1,058, trials 870, convictions 589 or 67·70 per cent., acquittals 281 or 32·30 per cent. The total number of convictions for the year in Supreme and Circuit Courts, and Courts of Quarter Sessions, amounted to 810, showing an increase of 103 on the previous year. The number of apprehensions made by the police during

* Includes 3,298*l.* on account of building of St. Andrew's College (Loans).

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the year was 26,993, of which drunkenness forms 16,171 cases, or nearly 60 per cent.

PART III.

Trade and Commerce.

Imports and exports.

The general total value of imports for the year 1876 amounted to 13,672,776*l.*, and of exports to 13,003,941*l.*, the excess of the former over the latter being 668,835*l.* Comparing these figures with those for the previous year, we find an increase of 182,576*l.* in imports, and a decrease of 667,639*l.* in exports. The rate per head of imports on estimated mean population was 22*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, and of exports 21*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

Imports.

Imports for the year from the United Kingdom are valued at 5,763,533*l.*, being a decrease of 298,693*l.* on the previous year. The value of imports from British Colonies amounted to 6,957,463*l.*, which is an addition of 456,393*l.* to the figures of the previous year.

Imports from Australian Colonies were as follows:—Victoria—seaward, 1,139,897*l.*; overland, 1,246,880*l.*,—making a total of 2,386,777*l.* South Australia—seaward, 748,285*l.*; overland, 417,421*l.*—in all 1,165,706*l.* Queensland—seaward, 1,981,996*l.*; overland, 7,593*l.*; total, 1,989,589*l.* Western Australia—64*l.* Total imports from all Australian Colonies, 5,542,136*l.* Imports from other British Colonies amounted in value to 1,415,327*l.*

Exports.

From foreign states the imports were of the value of 951,780*l.*

The value of exports to the United Kingdom was 5,918,187*l.*, being 456,316*l.* lower than the figures of the previous year, and 154,654*l.* in excess of the imports of the year 1876.

Exports to British Colonies are valued at 6,637,018*l.*, showing a decrease of 201,737*l.* on the year preceding, and there is a decrease of 320,445*l.* when compared with imports. The value of exports to Australian Colonies was as follows:—Victoria—seaward, 748,871*l.*; overland, 3,294,795*l.*,—making a total of 4,043,666*l.*, which is less by 226,104*l.* than the figures for the previous year. The large amount in the value of our export trade to Victoria is chiefly due to the quantity of wool forwarded by our flock-masters through that Colony to Hobson's Bay for shipment to foreign markets. The value of this particular article of trade so exported for the year 1876 amounted to 2,259,337*l.* The value of our exports to Victoria exceeded the imports from that Colony by 1,656,889*l.* South Australia—seaward, 92,171*l.*; overland, 577,967*l.*,—in all 670,138*l.* Imports from this Colony exceeded our exports there by 495,568*l.* Queensland—seaward, 1,036,602*l.*; overland, 85,218*l.*,—making a total of 1,121,820*l.* Here also we find imports from this Colony in excess of exports thither to the amount of 867,769*l.* Total exports to all Australian Colonies were of the value of 5,835,928*l.*, which sum is 293,792*l.* in excess of imports from those Colonies. Exports to other British Colonies were valued at 801,090*l.*, and to foreign states 448,736*l.* The value of articles exported during the year 1876,

being the produce or manufacture of the Colony, amounted to 10,691,953*l.*

The number of vessels which entered the various ports of the Colony during the year 1876 was 2,313. They were of an aggregate of 1,074,425 tons, and the number of their crews was 46,047. The following table shows their nationality, &c.

Nationality.	No.	Sailing.	Steam.	Tons.	Crews.
British - -	448	318	130	333,981	13,565
British Possessions -	1,731	1,069	662	661,074	30,219
Foreign - -	134	125	9	79,370	2,263
	2,313	1,512	801	1,074,425	46,047

The figures next following show the number and tonnage of vessels entered at each port of the Colony during the year 1876.

Ports.	No.	Tonnage.
Sydney - - - -	1,246	635,269
Newcastle - - - -	1,023	433,423
Grafton - - - -	4	703
Richmond River - - -	14	2,138
Tweed River - - - -	24	1,448
Eden - - - - -	2	1,444
	2,313	1,074,425

The number of vessels cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1876 was 2,265, of a capacity of 1,053,300 tons, and carrying crews to the number of 43,751. The nationality, &c. of these vessels will be seen by the following table:—

Nationality.	No.	Sailing.	Steam.	Tons.	Crews.
British - -	467	333	134	341,663	12,997
British Possessions -	1,670	1,087	583	632,739	28,524
Foreign - -	128	120	8	78,898	2,230
	2,265	1,540	725	1,053,300	43,751

The number of vessels and their tonnage cleared at each port of the Colony during the year 1876 were as follows:—

Ports.	No.	Tonnage.
Sydney - - - -	888	502,866
Newcastle - - - -	1,309	535,738
Grafton - - - -	19	3,451
Richmond River - - -	13	2,142
Tweed River - - - -	23	1,363
Eden - - - - -	13	7,740
	2,265	1,053,300

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Shipbuilding, &c.

There were 60 vessels built in the Colony during the year 1876, of an aggregate of 3,465 tons, and 95 vessels were registered. The returns for the last 10 years show that for the first half of that period there were 134 vessels built, of an aggregate of 8,410 tons, and for the second half there were 271 vessels built, of an aggregate of 17,498 tons.

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

From the returns of mills for grinding and dressing grain during the year 1876 we find that there were 164 in operation. Of this number, 150 were worked by means of steam, of an aggregate of 2,481 horse-power. There were eight mills in which water was used as a motive power. Wind was used in two mills, and there were four in which horse-power was employed. The number of pairs of stones in operation was 355. These figures are nearly the same as those for the previous year.

The return for manufactories and works, &c. shows that there were 986 manufactories in operation during the year 1876. They are distinguished as follows :—Connected with or dependent on agriculture, 137 ; working on raw materials the production of the pastoral interest, 43 ; food, of which the raw material is not the produce of agriculture, and of articles of drink, 186 ; building materials and plastic manufactories, 23 ; machine manufactories, brass, lead, and iron works, 55 ; and other manufactories, under the head of miscellaneous, 542.

Woollens.

The quantity of cloth and tweed turned out from the woollen manufactories of the Colony during the year 1876 was 395,704 yards, the produce of eight mills. The following is a comparison of the progress of this industry for the decade. For the first half of the period the quantity of material manufactured was 1,091,382 yards, and for the second half, 1,731,614 yards.

Soap and candles.

There were 30* soap and candle manufactories employed during the year, which produced 80,895 cwt. of soap and 13,811 cwt. of candles.

As compared with the first half of the decade, there is an increase in the last half of 43,611 cwt. of soap and a decrease of 12,067 cwt. of candles.

Tobacco.

The manufacture of tobacco was carried on in 20† establishments, which produced 13,740 cwt. The decennial return shows an increase in the quantity produced in the last five years over the first five years of 24,643 cwt.

Sugar.

There were 70 mills for the manufacture of sugar. Of this number 26‡ are worked by steam, representing an aggregate of 302 horse-power, and 44§ used horse-power. The quantity of

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* There were also two not at work.
† There was also one not at work in Port Stephens District.
‡ There were also seven not in operation.
§ There were also 13 not in operation.

sugar produced was 93,960 cwt. This is exclusive of one mill of 20 horse-power, from which no return could be obtained. The quantity of molasses produced was 55,560 gallons and 1,362 tons. The weight of cane given in the return as crushed is not obtained from the mills, and is only an estimate on which no great reliance can be placed. Mill owners, and especially the Colonial Sugar Company, which is the largest proprietary of sugar mills in the Colony, refuse to divulge this information. NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were only two establishments in the Colony for the refining of sugar. The quantity dealt with amounted to 284,544 cwt. Sugar refineries.

These had decreased in number from 35 in the year 1875 to 29 in the year under review. The number of animals slaughtered was as follows:—Sheep 25,876, cattle 4,611, pigs 175. The quantity of tallow produced was 43,810 cwt. (chiefly in the metropolitan district from the refuse of butchers' shops). Boiling down establishments.

From the decennial return of colonial distilled spirits it will be seen that there were 218,308 gallons of proof spirit produced from 43,082 cwt. of molasses. In the year 1867, which was the first year of the decade, the production amounted to 20,903 gallons, so that the increase on this quantity in the last year was 197,405 gallons. Distilleries.

PART V.

Production.

The general total value of gold received into the Mint by escort from the several gold-fields of the Colony during the year 1876, amounted in value to 479,133*l.* As compared with the previous year, we find a falling away to the amount of 288,696*l.* The western district shows the largest production, which was valued at 357,496*l.*, which amount is below the figures of the previous year by 226,396*l.* From the southern gold-field the produce was valued at 104,743*l.* Here again we notice a decrease of 56,033*l.* The northern gold-field supplied gold to the value of 16,894*l.*, which is less in amount by 6,267*l.* than the figures of the previous year. The greatest quantity of gold received by escort into the Mint in any one year during the decade was in the year 1872, when the value amounted to 1,513,186*l.*, since which there has been a large yearly decrease. Gold.

The number of coal mines in work during the year was 25,* from which 1,319,918 tons were raised, of the value of 803,300*l.* These figures show a decrease on the previous year in quantity of 9,811 tons, and in value of 16,129*l.* The value of coal produced in the district of Newcastle for the year was 626,260*l.*, or nearly 78 per cent. of the whole. The total value of coal raised during the first five years of the decade was 1,739,786*l.*, and for the second five years 3,474,900*l.* Coal.

I find that the return of coal in 1875 is understated, and I

* There were also 11 not at work.

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regret at not being made aware of it until after the tables were printed.*

Shale. The quantity of shale raised during the year amounted to 15,998 tons, valued at 47,994*l.*, against 6,197 tons, of 15,500*l.* value, in 1875, being an increase of 9,801 tons in quantity, and 32,494*l.* in value.

Copper ore and copper. There were 5,225 tons of copper ore and copper raised and produced during the year, of the value of 58,271*l.* Here again we find an increase on the figures of the previous year of 3,741 tons and 25,874*l.*

Tin ore and tin. The weight of tin ore and tin raised and produced during the year was 7,706 tons, valued at 252,713*l.*, showing an increase of 1,298 tons and 30,791*l.*

Iron. Of this metal there were 2,680 tons produced, of the value of 13,399*l.*

Antimony ore. The weight of antimony ore produced was 40 tons, valued at 140*l.*

Live stock. The returns of live stock for the year ended 31st March 1877 show that the general total of all kinds amounted to 28,174,708, owned by 33,680 persons. The number of horses was 366,703, showing an increase on the previous year of 9,007. Horned cattle numbered 3,131,013, which figures are less by 3,073 than those of the previous year. The number of sheep had increased from 24,382,536 to 24,503,388, being an addition of 120,852 to our flocks. From the decennial return of live stock it will be seen that during the last five years of the decade the number of horses has been yearly increasing. Horned cattle also show an increase each year, with the exception of the year under consideration. Comparing the number of sheep in the year 1873 with the number in the year 1876, we find an increase of 6,943,340.

Agriculture. The agricultural returns for the year ended 31st March 1877 show that the number of occupiers of land, exclusive of those for pastoral purposes, was 39,639, being an increase of 2,655 on the previous year.

The extent of holdings comprised an area of 18,210,796 acres, as against 13,525,497 acres in the previous year.

The area of land in cultivation was 513,840 acres, making an addition of 62,702 acres to the area of the previous year. A large addition is to be noticed in the extent of land enclosed but not in cultivation. The area had increased from 7,771,068 acres to 11,020,968 acres. Unenclosed land occupied an area of 6,675,987 acres, being an advance on the previous year of 1,372,698 acres.

Grain crops. The extent of land under wheat for the year was 145,608 acres, which is in excess of the previous year's area by 11,999 acres. The quantity of wheat grown was 2,391,979 bushels, which gives an average of 16½ bushels to the acre.

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* The Under Secretary for Mines, in his report for 1876, page 13, says :—"I re-
" gret to say that some of the returns for 1875, supposed to be for the whole year,
" were in fact for only six months, and the error was not detected until too late for
" correction; consequently the out-put of coal for that year was made to appear in
" my last report less than the out-put of 1874, whereas it should have been larger
" by 25,162 tons; and the quantity of shale was from the same cause set down at
" less than it should have been."

Maize occupied an area of 116,364 acres, which produced 3,879,537 bushels, the average per acre being over 33 bushels. There appears a small decrease in the number of acres used for the growth of maize, but an increase in the yield. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The area of land used for barley was 5,662 acres, and the produce amounted to 134,158 bushels, which gives an average of about 23½ bushels per acre. The increase in area used for the growth of this cereal was 845 acres, and there is an addition of 35,582 bushels in production. Oats show an area of 21,828 acres, and a yield of 461,916 bushels, which is an average of a little over 21 bushels to the acre. Here also there is a small increase in both area and production.

This crop covered an area of 14,171 acres, which produced 42,938 tons. The average per acre was a little over 3 tons. Here we find an excess in area of 366 acres, and in production of 1,735 tons. Potatoes.

The number of acres used for the growth of sugar-cane was 6,755, of which 3,524 were productive. Sugar-cane.

The area laid down for hay in sown grasses, oats, wheat, and barley was 111,946 acres, which gave a yield of 159,660 tons. As compared with the previous year there was an increase of 34,821 acres in extent of area, and of 70,693 tons in the weight of the crop. Hay.

The quantity of land under the cultivation of the vine was 4,457 acres, which is within an acre the same as the area of the previous year. The vintage gave 799,709 gallons of wine and 2,968 gallons of brandy. Here we find a decrease in the quantity of wine produced of 32,040 gallons, and a small increase in brandy. There were also 917 acres set apart for fruit for the use of the table. Vines.

The number of acres appropriated for green food for cattle amounted to 61,516, which shows the very large increase of 10,882 acres. Green food for cattle.

Gardens and orchards occupied a space of 20,453 acres, as against 19,407 acres in the previous year. Gardens and orchards.

Taking these statistics on the productions of the Colony as a whole, in comparison with the previous year, they must be considered as most satisfactory.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

The rates of interest allowed to depositors by the banks during the year 1876 were as follows:—For 3 months, 3 per cent; for 6 months, 4 per cent; for 12 months, 5 per cent. Interest.

The general total value of coin and bullion in the Mint, Treasury, and various banks of the Colony on 31st December 1876 amounted to 2,879,417*l.* Of this sum British coin and Australian sovereigns represent 2,732,204*l.*, and the balance forms the value of bullion gold. Coin and bullion.

The amount of notes in circulation on 31st December 1876 belonging to the several banks of the Colony was 1,220,556*l.* Notes.

The return of the New South Wales Savings' Bank shows that

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New South Wales Savings' Bank.

on the 31st December 1876 there were 31,003 depositors, to whose credit there stood the sum of 1,303,813*l.* Of the number of depositors 24,120 are stated to be in the Sydney books with a credit of 1,013,073*l.*, and 6,883 were country depositors, with a credit of 290,740*l.* The amount at credit of reserve fund was 136,000*l.* The rate of interest paid to depositors on amounts not exceeding 100*l.* was 5 per cent. per annum, and the interest charged to borrowers was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the first half of the year, but afterwards reduced to 5 per cent. Out of the total number of depositors we find that 47·40 per cent. had 20*l.* and under to their credit, 19·17 per cent. between 20*l.* and 50*l.*, 15·95 per cent. between 50*l.* and 100*l.*, 16·68 per cent. between 100*l.* and 200*l.*, 0·48 per cent. between 200*l.* and 300*l.*, and 0·32 per cent. on 300*l.* and upwards. There was an increase of 8,015*l.* on the previous year in the amount of deposits.

Government savings' banks.

There were 149 Government savings' banks in operation during the year 1876. The number of accounts remaining open at the close of the year was 13,270, with a credit of 400,120*l.* As compared with the previous year, we find an increase of 2,471 in the number of accounts, and of 46,046*l.* in the amount to credit of depositors.

Gold received and issued at the Mint.

The weight of gold-dust or bullion received at the Branch Royal Mint during the year 1876 was 431,905 ounces, valued at 1,605,558*l.* The revenue for the year amounted to 10,496*l.*, of which sum 3,491*l.* was received from gold the produce of the Colony, and 6,555*l.* from other sources. The value of the gold received into the Mint from New South Wales was 575,565*l.*; from New Zealand, 54,783*l.*; from Queensland, 967,967*l.* The following table shows the quantity and value of gold received at the Mint from its opening on the 14th May 1855 to 31st December 1876, and the places which produced such gold:—

	ozs.	£
New South Wales - -	5,854,449	22,493,389
Victoria - - -	1,437,452	5,904,855
New Zealand - -	1,750,261	6,877,753
Queensland - -	1,693,994	6,100,505
Tasmania - - -	5,692	21,983
South Australia - -	443	1,595
California - - -	2,243	8,225
British Columbia - -	218	759
New Caledonia - -	5,631	20,111

Railways.

The total number of miles of railway open for traffic at the end of the year 1876 was 509 miles, which is an addition of 72 miles on the figures of the previous year. The return shows that during the year there were 2,478,946 passengers carried. These figures include season-ticket holders. An increase appears in the number of passengers of 570,541. The total amount of earnings for the year was 693,225*l.*, as against 614,647*l.* in the previous year, being an increase of 78,578*l.* The sum of 339,406*l.* was expended in working, which amount is 43,232*l.* in excess of the previous year. Earnings exceeded working expenses by 353,819*l.*

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Electric telegraphs.

There were 171 telegraph stations in operation at the close of the year, which yielded a revenue of 59,348*l.* The number of telegrams transmitted from the Colony to all parts was 858,301, from which 78,298*l.* was obtained. This amount is exclusive of 2,031*l.* balance on intercolonial business. The number issued in the Colony from all parts was 136,144. The number of stations had increased from 137 in the year 1875 to 171 in the year under review, and the number of miles of line from 8,012 to 8,472. From the decennial table we find that the total cost of construction of the telegraph lines of the Colony amounted to 271,890*l.*

Post offices.

At the close of the year 1876 we find there were 782 post offices, with 1,090 persons employed. The business of the year was as follows:—Number of letters transmitted, 14,466,900; newspapers, 6,917,200; packets, 413,900. Income amounted to 128,642*l.*, and expenditure, including estimated outstanding liabilities, 206,799*l.* Foreign letters despatched numbered 1,852,400; inland, 9,986,000; town, 2,628,500. Newspapers, foreign, 1,508,300; inland, 5,408,900. Inland packets and book parcels numbered 413,900. Comparing these figures with those of the first year of the decade, we find the following to be the increase on each of the under-mentioned heads:—Number of post offices, 305; persons employed, 508; letters transmitted, 7,718,544; newspapers forwarded, 3,019,295; inland packets, &c., 224,617; income, 45,410*l.*; expenditure, 116,803*l.*

Money orders.

The number of money order offices in the Colony at the end of the year 1876 was 258, from which the sum of 4,663*l.* was received as commission on orders. The number of orders issued during the year was 112,684, representing the sum of 465,770*l.* Orders paid during the year numbered 101,492, of the value of 421,162*l.* The growth of the money order system will be seen from the following figures, which show the increase of business as compared with the first year of the decade. Number of orders issued, 51,828; amount, 225,708*l.* Number of orders paid, 47,867; amount, 210,841*l.*

Military.

The general total sum expended by the Colony during the year 1876 on account of defence, and military and naval services, amounted to 55,717*l.*, which is a decrease of 11,245*l.* on the figures of the previous year.

Boroughs and municipal districts.

The return of boroughs and *municipal districts gives the total estimated annual value of rateable property to amount to 1,256,181*l.* The general total receipts for the municipal year ending 5th February 1877 were 111,649*l.*, procured from the following sources:—Rates, &c., 67,043*l.*; loans, &c., 20,997*l.*; Government aid, 23,609*l.* The total expenditure is shown to amount to 106,924*l.*, which was distributed as follows:—Office expenses and salaries, 16,342*l.*; public works, 80,134*l.*; repayment of loans, &c., and interest, 10,448*l.* The total extent of roads and streets under charge was 2,519 miles.

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* No return from Dubbo; last year's return used in its stead.

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PART VII.

Miscellaneous.

Public works. Railways.

From the general return of public works it will be seen that the total amount expended on the railways of the Colony during the year 1876 was 738,272*l.* Of this sum 484,177*l.* was expended on extensions not yet open for traffic, and 254,095*l.* in repairs, rolling stock, &c. The general total amount which the Colony has invested in railways up to the end of last year was 8,570,059*l.*

Electric telegraphs.

The various extensions of telegraph lines during the year absorbed the sum of 26,172*l.* The total sum expended in the construction of telegraphs to the end of the year 1876 was 271,890*l.*

Roads and bridges.

The cost incurred in the construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges of the Colony during the year 1876 was 342,997*l.*, to which should be added the expenditure on minor roads and subordinate roads under trustees, which amounted to 39,260*l.*, making a general total of 382,257*l.*

Harbours and rivers.

The harbours and rivers branch of the Public Works Department shows a total expenditure for the year of 175,189*l.*

Public buildings.

The sum of 155,685*l.* was expended during the year on the erection, additions, and repairs of public buildings. The total amount on all public works for the year was as follows:—

	£
Railways - - - -	738,272
Electric telegraphs - -	26,172
Roads and bridges - - -	382,257
Harbours and rivers - -	175,189
Public buildings - - -	155,685
	1,477,575

Meteorology.

From the abstract of observations taken at the Sydney Observatory in the year 1876, we find that the highest temperature in the shade was on the 25th February, when it reached 96·9. The records further show the following high temperature:—12th November, 92·8; 19th January, 90·8; 26th March, 89·6. The mean shade temperature for the year was 82·4. The lowest temperature recorded was on the 31st July, when it was 39·1. The mean of the year was 49·1. The total quantity of rain which fell during the year was 45·647 inches, which is less by 6·328 than the average of the figures for the last 17 years.

Real and leasehold estates.

The number of all kinds of deeds registered in my department during the year 1876 was 9,503. The decennial table shows that in the year 1867 the number was 4,959, and in the first year of the second half of the decade (1872) they had increased to 5,428. From this period they have rapidly increased year by year till they reached 9,503 in number as before stated. The total aggregate amount of money consideration expressed in all deeds registered amounted to 3,886,270*l.*, and a further yearly sum of 20,933*l.* included in leases registered for a period exceeding three

years. Mortgages on land registered during the year numbered 2,126, representing a sum of 1,042,848*l.* These securities had increased in number since the year 1873 from 1,241 to 2,126, in the year under review, and the sum advanced from 711,315*l.* to 1,402,848*l.* There were 1,101 discharges of mortgage registered during the year, of an aggregate value of 600,835*l.*, and also 110 conveyances under mortgage, of 63,394*l.* in value. NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were 920 liens on wool registered during the year, representing an aggregate sum of 752,819*l.*, the security consisting of 4,828,951 sheep. From the decennial table it will be seen that there has been a very large increase in this description of security since the first year of the decade, when the number of these instruments registered was 268, and the amount secured rose from 521,384*l.* to 752,819*l.* Liens on wool.

Live stock mortgages for the year numbered 758, securing an aggregate sum of 2,157,835*l.*; the security consisting of 2,480,004 sheep, 258,447 horned cattle, and 5,847 horses. Here also a large increase is to be observed, the difference between the amount secured in the first and last years of the decade being 952,824*l.* The discharges of mortgages on live stock amounted in value to 1,028,079*l.* Mortgages on live stock.

There were 319 liens on growing crops registered during the year, securing in the aggregate the sum of 16,419*l.* Liens on growing crops.

Applications to bring property under the operation of the Real Property Act again show a decrease of 15 on the number received in the previous year, the numbers being 241 and 256. The declared value of the property included in these applications for the year 1876 amounted to 220,166*l.*, which is 8,992*l.* under the figures of the previous year. The decennial table shows that in the first year of the decade (1867) there were 324 applications received, of a total value of 261,484*l.* Comparing these figures with those for the year under review, we find a decrease of 83 in the number received, and of 41,318*l.* in the value. The total number of transfers, mortgages, discharges, and incumbrances registered during the year was 4,551, representing a value of 2,272,170*l.* Real Property Act.

The total amount of fees received and paid into consolidated revenue account during the year 1876 for the registration of the various transactions under the head of real and leasehold estate, liens on wool, mortgages of live stock, and Real Property Act was 8,862*l.*, a sum considerably in excess of the working expenses in connexion with these services. Fees, &c.

The number of Crown grants registered under the Real Property Act during the year was 5,275, comprising a total area of 660,011 acres, the purchase money of which amounted to 671,354*l.* During the last 10 years the business in Crown grants has been as follows:—Number received, 44,077; area, 3,056,944 acres; purchase money, 3,277,906*l.* Crown grants.

The return showing the number of miners' rights, mineral and business licenses, issued at each of the gold-fields and at the Treasury, during the year 1876, gives the following informa- Miners' rights. Mineral and business licenses.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

tion:—Miners' rights, 7,395; mineral licenses, 271; business licenses, 527.

Gold mining machinery.

The number of steam-engines employed during the year in alluvial and quartz mining was 145, of an aggregate of 2,099 horse-power. The number of other works was as follows:—Puddling machines, 225; whims and pulleys, 95; whips, 265; sluices and toms, 452; water-wheels, 126; pumps, 293; sluice boxes, 1,368; stamp-heads, 1,386.

Publicans' licenses.

The total number of publicans' licenses issued during the year 1876 was 2,813, showing an increase of 183 on the figures for the previous year. In the city and suburbs we find an increase of 81 new licenses.

Military forces.

The total number of all ranks of the New South Wales Artillery was 215, which makes an addition of 112 to the strength of this force. The total number of volunteers of all ranks was 2,721, and of cadets 1,520. The strength of the naval brigade consisted of 329 men, of whom 272 belonged to the Sydney corps and 57 to the Newcastle corps.

Land sales.

The area of land sold during the year 1876 was 4,046,350 acres, which realised the sum of 4,089,507*l.* Of this amount the sum of 2,289,056*l.* was paid, leaving a balance of 1,800,451*l.* In addition to the sum of 2,289,056*l.* received, we find a receipt of 68,834*l.* as balance on conditional purchases, and another sum of 99,329*l.* as interest, making a total of 2,457,219*l.* Among the largest sums on account of land sales, we find that lands *sold at auction* realised 1,729,552*l.*, of which 1,417,260*l.* was received, leaving a balance of 312,292*l.* still owing. The receipts from improved lots sold to owners of improvements amounted to 87,619*l.* Land *conditionally* sold realised the sum of 1,984,212*l.*; the actual receipts being 496,053*l.* and the balance remaining unpaid amounting to 1,488,159*l.* The amount received on behalf of rent and assessment of *pastoral and annual leases* was 215,387*l.* The following is a recapitulation of the receipts for the year 1876:—

	£
Under Lands Alienation Act - -	2,457,219
„ Lands Occupation Act - -	215,387
„ Gold-fields Act - - -	25,107
Miscellaneous - - - -	25,673
	2,723,386

The balances on the business of the year remaining unpaid being 312,292*l.* on auction sales, and 1,488,159*l.* on conditional purchases,—in all, a sum of 1,800,451*l.*

As compared with the previous year, we find the actual receipts on account of land sold were in excess by 875,120*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. G. WARD,
Registrar-General.

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.—STATISTICAL RETURN showing the relative positions and aggregate importance of the Australasian Colonies, at the close of the Year 1876.

Name of Colony.	Estimated mean Population of 1876.	Revenue of 1876.	Proportion of Revenue of 1876, raised by Taxation.	Rate of Taxation per Head of Population.	Value of Imports for 1876.	Value of Imports per Head of the Population.	Value of Exports for 1876.	Value of Exports per Head of the Population.	Total Value of Trade, Imports and Exports.	Value of Trade per Head of the Population.	Miles of Railway open, 31st Dec. 1876.
		£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s d.	£	£ s. d.	
New South Wales - - - -	618,214	5,037,662	1,161,406	1 17 7	13,672,776	22 2 4	13,003,941	21 0 8¼	26,676,717	43 3 0¼	554
Victoria - - - - -	830,679	4,325,156	1,780,392	2 3 3¾[1]	15,705,354	18 18 1½	14,196,487	17 1 9¾	29,901,841	35 19 11¼	702
South Australia - - - -	218,060	1,320,204	445,548	2 0 10¼	4,576,183	20 19 8	4,816,170	22 1 8¾	9,392,353	43 1 4¾	328
Queensland - - - - -	184,194	1,263,268	568,776	3 3 10½[2]	3,126,559	16 19 6	3,875,581	21 0 10	7,002,140	38 0 4	298
Tasmania - - - - -	104,573	327,350	215,639	2 1 3	1,133,003	10 16 8¼	1,130,983	10 16 3½	2,263,986	21 12 11¾	172½
Western Australia - - - -	27,321	162,189	85,178	3 2 4¼	386,037	14 2 7	397,293	14 10 10	783,330	28 13 5	38
Total - - -	1,983,041	12,435,829	4,256,939	2 3 3	38,599,912	19 9 3½	37,420,455	18 17 5	76,020,367	38 6 8½	2,092½
New Zealand - - - - -	387,465[3]	3,580,294	1,350,025	3 9 8¼	6,905,171	17 16 5	5,673,465	14 12 10	12,578,636	32 9 3	718
Total for Australasian Colonies -	2,370,506	16,016,123	5,606,964	2 7 7	45,505,083	19 3 11	43,093,920	18 3 7	88,599,003	37 7 6	2,810½

[1] This rate has been calculated according to the mean population of the financial year ended 30th June 1876 (822,231).
[2] This rate has been calculated according to the mean population of the financial year ended 30th June 1876 (178,083).
[3] Population at the middle of 1876, exclusive of Maoris.

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.—STATISTICAL RETURN showing the relative positions and aggregate importance of the Australasian Colonies at the close of the Year 1876—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Miles of Railway in course of Construction, 31st Dec. 1876.	Miles of Telegraph Lines open, 31st Dec. 1876.	Miles of Telegraph Wire open 31st Dec. 1876.	Miles of Telegraph in course of Construction, 31 Dec. 1876.		No. of Acres under Crop in 1876.	No. of Horses in 1876.	No. of Cattle in 1876.	No. of Sheep in 1876.	No. of Pigs in 1876.	Estimated Population on 31st Dec. 1876.	Public Debt on 31st Dec. 1876.	Rate of Indebtedness per Head of Population.
				Length of Lines.	Length of Wire.							£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	179½	8,472	—	1,290	1,290	513,840	366,703	3,131,013	24,503,388	173,604	629,776	11,759,519	18 13 5¼
Victoria	259	2,743	4,745	96	319	1,231,105	194,768	1,128,265	11,278,893	175,578	840,300	17,011,382	20 4 10¾
South Australia	512	3,470	4,305	730	1,029	1,514,916	106,903	219,441	6,133,291	102,295	225,677	3,837,100	17 0 0½
Queensland	216	4,633	6,081	63	63	85,569[1]	133,625[1]	2,079,979[1]	7,315.074[1]	53,455[1]	187,100	6,948,586	37 2 9
Tasmania	—	635	763	—	—	127,282	23,622	124,459	1,755,142[2]	60,681	105,484	1,520,500	14 8 3½
Western Australia	35	1,159	1,165	350	—[3]	45,933	33,502	54,058	899,494	18,108	27,321	135,000	4 18 10
Total	1,201½	21,112	—	2,529	2,701	3,518,645	859,123	6,737,215	51,885,282	583,721	2,015,658	41,212,087	20 8 11
New Zealand	427	3,170	7,093	—	—	2,682,755[4]	99,859[5]	494,917[5]	11,704,853[5]	123,921[5]	399,075	18,678,111[6]	46 16 0¾[7]
Total for Australasian Colonies	1,628½	24,282	—	2,529	2,701	6,201,400	958,982	7,232,132	63,590,135	707,642	2,414,733	59,890,198	24 16 0¼

[1] Owing to floods in the Western Districts it has been found impossible to complete the returns for the districts of "Cunnamulla" and "Blackall," it has been necessary therefore to repeat the figures for 1875. [2] Not including 13,643 sheep on islands in Bass's Straits. [3] Not stated.
[4] Includes 2,202,645 acres of artificial grasses, and exclusive of 257,954 acres of land broken up but not under crop.
[5] No account of stock has been taken since the census of March 1874. [6] Accrued sinking fund 1,289,956*l.*=3*l.* 14*s.* 7¾*d.* per head. [7] Exclusive of Maoris.

Statistical View of the Progress of the Colony of New South Wales from the Year 1867 to 1876 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commitments for trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	No. of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount actually received.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1867	447,620	18,317	3,426	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,180	702	188	2,274	413,164	280,201	1,728,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	342,655	119,044 *232,176	264,660
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756¼	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	149,945 *239,516	265,250
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	164,890 *397,328	319,613
1870	502,861	19,648	3,848	6,558	1,381	74,503	1,037	601	187	6,862	426,976	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066	868,564	316,836	94,373 *329,318	250,843
1871	519,182	20,143	3,953	6,407	1,450	77,889	1,084	628	190	6,827	417,801	304,100	2,014,888	16,278,697	213,193	898,784	316,340	88,637 *358,682	261,401
1872	539,190	20,250	3,925	7,468	1,464	106,691	1,073	643	188	7,769	454,634	328,408	2,287,660	17,560,048	218,904	1,012,426	396,198	166,834 *749,586	432,373
1873	560,275	21,444	4,384	7,611	1,508	110,287	1,166	647	182	8,268	456,825	334,462	2,794,327	20,501,506	240,680	1,192,862	665,747	389,200 *1391719	845,410
1874	584,278	22,178	4,343	8,652	1,547	119,133	1,311	700	172	9,241	464,957	346,691	2,856,699	22,872,882	219,958	1,304,567	790,225	702,758 *1586282	1,111,041
1875	606,652	22,528	4,605	10,771	1,586	124,756	1,245	707	161	9,744	451,138¾	357,696	3,134,086	24,382,536	199,950	1,329,729	819,430	1,135,274 *1756678	1,760,570
1876	629,776	23,298	4,630	11,193	1,629	131,620	1,391	810	164	10,623	513,840	366,703	3,131,013	24,503,388	173,604	1,319,918	803,300	1,873,059 *1984212	2,513,404

* Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."
Price of land in 1825, 7*s*. 6*d*. to 10*s*. per acre.
The minimum price of land was 5*s*. per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s*. per acre, 1840–2. (20*s*. in Port Phillip in 1841.) 20*s*. per acre from 1843 to present time.
In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money, generally in Spanish dollars.
Transportation ceased in 1840.
The return of the revenue and expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military.
Gold discovered in May 1851.
The loans expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES from the Year 1867 to 1876 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the produce of the Colony.*									Value of Total Imports.*	Value of Total Exports.*	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.†		Coal.							
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1867	1,868	646,970	2,104	726,721	21,708,902	1,711,322	37,211	63,648	369	559,079	2,170,165	473,357	253,259	6,599,804	6,880,715	2,034,490§	534,966	2,249,521§	686,112
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700§	1,617,112	2,646,303§	640,536
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672‡	3,162,522‡	101,622‡	177,059‡	4,515	642,358	2,493,869	595,553	298,195	8,392,753‡	9,933,442‡	2,590,217§	1,073,292	2,649,329§	616,476
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942	47,440,610‡	2,741,141‡	136,661‡	227,819‡	3,674	410,547	1,585,736	578,389	267,681	7,757,281‡	7,990,038‡	2,490,203§	85,106	2,638,264§	660,089
1871	1,891	706,019	2,123	794,460	65,611,953‡	4,748,160‡	158,345‡	258,323‡	1,275	535,492	2,074,937	565,429	256,690	9,609,508‡	11,245,032‡	2,908,153‖	1,380,709	3,006,576‖	595,923
1872	2,011	774,490	2,091	813,550	50,233,453‡	3,342,900‡	107,635‡	180,365‡	401	543,430	2,111,231	669,110	307,861	9,208,496‡	10,447,049‡	3,592,979‖	568,436	2,986,186‖	652,437
1873	2,161	874,804	2,212	887,674	31,606,846	2,201,910	66,604	106,288	1,977	665,676	2,590,145	773,079	526,089	10,471,483	9,387,873	3,937,410‖	217,270	2,333,166‖	427,286
1874	2,217	1,016,369	2,168	974,525	75,156,924‡	5,010,125‡	67,053‡	104,151‡	3,257	482,076	1,875,081	872,980	632,247	11,293,739‡	12,345,603‡	4,664,568‖	365,560	4,426,040‖	575,732
1875	2,376	1,109,086	2,294	1,059,101	87,534,280	5,651,643	69,558‡	112,072‡	1,327	552,592	2,097,740	927,007	671,483	13,490,200‡	13,671,580‡	5,989,697‖	902,358	5,117,903‖	1,255,224
1876	2,313	1,074,425	2,265	1,053,300	100,736,330	5,565,173	77,539‡	124,834‡	322	410,330	1,589,854	868,817	625,211	13,672,776‡	13,003,941‡	6,961,887‖	1,220,505¶	6,030,410‖	1,198,333

* Exclusive of the overland traffic.
† Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies and converted into bars and coin.
‡ Inclusive of the overland traffic.
§ The revenue and expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.
‖ Includes Trust Fund, Treasury Bills, &c.
¶ Includes 250,000*l.* advances from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 19.

Governor KENNEDY to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Brisbane,
September 3, 1877.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit six copies of the fifth census of the Colony of Queensland taken on the 1st May 1876.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. E. KENNEDY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT by the REGISTRAR-GENERAL on the FIFTH CENSUS of QUEENSLAND, 1876.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

SIR,

IN accordance with the provisions of the Act 39 Vict., No. 2, entitled "The Quinquennial Census Act of 1875," a census of the population of Queensland was taken on the night of the 1st of May 1876; and I have now the honour of submitting the results, as contained in the tables 1 to 62.

Preliminary statement.

2. A preliminary statement, dated 24th July, containing the rough totals of population in the census and electoral districts and in the municipalities, together with the number of Chinese, Polynesians, lunatics, prisoners, and inmates of charitable institutions in the electorates, was laid before Parliament with the least possible delay after the first posting of the householders' schedules, since which the work has been carefully checked throughout, and some necessary corrections made, showing the final results of the enumeration as now given.

Police, registry, and census districts formerly the same.

3. Before the passing of "The Census Act of 1871" the labours of the Registrar-General in the arrangement and superintendence of this work were much simplified by the identity of the boundaries of the census, the police, and the registry districts; the municipalities only being taken from their police or registry districts, and formed into additional census districts.

Altered by "Census Act of 1871."

4. By "The Census Act of 1871" it was provided that the boundaries of pastoral districts and parishes should be followed in defining the census districts. It was pointed out by the then Registrar-General, Mr. Scott, in his census report of 1871, that some insuperable difficulties had presented themselves in carrying out the method of division prescribed by the Act; but in attempting to give effect to its provisions in this particular a new arrangement of the districts was necessarily made, such as

QUEENSLAND.

destroyed all agreement between the territorial divisions for different purposes which had previously existed.

New districts and alterations in boundaries.

5. "The Quinquennial Census Act of 1875" continued the provisions requiring that pastoral and parish boundaries should be followed; and in the taking of the census of 1876 even greater difficulties in complying with this method have presented themselves, chiefly in consequence of the extended settlement which within the last few years has taken place in the northern and western portions of the country, making it necessary to create several new districts, and materially to alter the old boundaries of the census districts as they were laid down in 1871.

Altered census districts identical with police districts.

6. In the necessary re-adjustment of the census districts of 1876, the rule has been adopted of making no alterations that could be avoided, retaining the boundaries of the census districts of 1871 wherever it was practicable, especially for purposes of comparison; but many changes being indispensable, wherever it has been found impossible to follow pastoral and parish boundaries the principle has been acted on of making the new census districts identical with the police districts, thus making several steps in the direction of the old and convenient method of identical districts for the several purposes for which the territory is divided. The boundaries of all the registry districts have, at the same time, been re-adjusted and made to correspond throughout with those of the census districts.

Registry districts now made identical with census districts.

Work undertaken by enumerators.

7. After the principal division of the country into 52 districts had been determined on, communications were addressed to the police magistrates and others, chiefly from among the officers of the Government, to ascertain their willingness to act in the capacity of enumerators for the management of the census work in each of these main divisions. With only one or two exceptions the somewhat onerous duties were undertaken by those whose assistance had been invited, most of whom had acted in the same capacity in the enumeration of 1871; and this opportunity is taken of acknowledging the carefulness and ability with which the tasks of the enumerators were performed.

Proclamation defining boundaries and appointing enumerators.

Index to districts and to names of enumerators.

8. The "Government Gazette" of the 11th of February 1876 contains the proclamation by his Excellency the Governor defining the boundaries of the districts, and appointing the enumerators in each of them. A copy of this document, together with an alphabetical index to the districts, and an alphabetical list of the names of the enumerators is contained in the Appendix under the letters D., E., F. The names of the collectors in each district and sub-district will be found under the letter G.

Maps.

Instructions for the formation of sub-districts.

9. Maps of the districts having been lithographed, to be afterwards appended to this Report, loose copies were in the meantime sent to the several enumerators with instructions for the formation of the sub-districts. In all cases where the pastoral and parish boundaries could not be followed directions were given to adopt some well-defined limits, such as the natural features of the country, railway or telegraph lines, or main roads, as boundaries of the sub-divisions.

Sub-districts on maps.

10. As it was intended that these lesser districts should form a permanent basis for any further partitions that might be required in the progress of settlement, great care was taken to have these instructions carried into effect. The red lines on the lithographed maps hereto appended show the sub-divisions of the census districts.

Overlappings of old registry districts forming first sub-divisions.

11. With the design of making all the registry districts correspond with the new census districts, instructions were sent to the enumerators as follows:—"The special attention of all the "enumerators is called to the necessity of observing the boun- "daries of the old registry districts, which in some places overlap "the census districts. Wherever this is the case it is shown in "the two maps herewith forwarded; and where any one or more "of the old registry districts thus impinges upon the census dis- "tricts, the portion of the registry district which thus overlaps is "to be in all cases made to form one or more of the *first* sub- "divisions. The remaining sub-divisions are to be all subject to "this."

Means of comparison in vital statistics returns.

12. The carrying out of this instruction provided the means of showing the vital statistics in each registry district by comparison with the returns of the previous year.

13. A description of the overlappings of the old registry districts is found in the Appendix, letter H.

Collectors appointed.

14. With the assistance of the enumerators, 287 sub-districts were thus formed, and, the collectors having been nominated by the enumerators, these were recommended for appointment, and their employment was authorised by the Government.

List of names.

A list of the sub-divisions and of the names of the collectors is contained in the Appendix, letter G, with the collectors' names.

15. The rule was adopted of having one collector only for each sub-divison, but as some changes in this respect became necessary in carrying out the work, the number of collectors was only 285, the number of sub-divisions being 287.

Remuneration of enumerators.

16. The remuneration of the enumerators, subject to the approval of their work, was a fee of four guineas, and in addition thereto the following payments, viz.:—5*s.* per 100 or fraction of 100 persons enumerated up to 1,000; 3*s.* per 100 or fraction of 100 persons over 1,000 and not exceeding 5,000; and 2*s.* per 100 or fraction of 100 persons over 5,000.

Instructions for payment of collectors.

17. The instructions for the payment of the collectors read as follows:—"Each enumerator will have a distinct understanding "with each of his collectors as to the rate of pay to be allowed "to the latter, which will, as a general rule, and subject to the "approval of their work, be on the following scale:—For men on "foot 10*s.* a day; and for mounted men finding their own horses "15*s.* per day. This is to be checked by the diaries of the col- "lectors, as provided, clause 16, 'Instructions to Collectors.' "Each enumerator will have a discretionary power of agreeing "for higher rates of pay where absolutely necessary; but before "doing so, unless prevented by distance, will apply to the Regis- "trar-General for authority on the point, and if so prevented will,

Discretionary power to agree for higher rates by permission.

" as soon as possible thereafter, specially report the agreement " made. In any case, it must be distinctly understood that, after " an agreement once made, no extra payment of any kind to any " collector will be sanctioned."

Difficulty of getting collectors in the northern district.

Higher rates given.

18. The rates of remuneration being the same as those previously adopted, were applicable to the more settled portions of the country, but in almost all the more distant parts to which settlement had spread so largely since the taking of the previous census, and especially in the new and gold finding districts of the North, it was found quite impracticable to obtain collectors at anything like these rates. In several of the districts, particularly in the Cook and Palmer, much difficulty was experienced in procuring collectors for the work, and this was increased by the long drought prevailing about the time arrangements for taking the census were being made. In several cases it became necessary to consent to pay for artificial food for the horses employed; and in most of these distant places the enumerators were compelled to apply to the Registrar-General for authority to agree with their collectors for much higher rates than those at first named in their instructions.

Lowest and highest.

19. The lowest rates paid to collectors were 10*s.* a day for footmen and 15*s.* for horsemen. The highest rates were paid in the Cook, Palmer, and South Kennedy Districts, where 35*s.*, and in one instance 40*s.*, a day had to be given.

Chinese collectors.

20. The cost of collecting in the Cook and Palmer Districts was considerably increased by the necessity of the appointment of Chinese collectors in addition to the ordinary officers.

21. The district of the Palmer gold-fields was carefully mapped out by the enumerator, Mr. Warden Selheim, seen in map No. 1, into the ordinary sub-divisions, shown by the red colour, in continuous lines, and again into other divisions for the Chinese collectors, as shown by the dotted lines in black.

Cost of collection.

22. Including the payment of enumerators, the cost of collection per head of population averaged nearly 9½*d.* for the whole of the districts collectively. In some well settled districts taken separately the cost per head of population was low, and in the district of Maryborough it averaged only 2½*d.* per head. The highest cost per head was in the district of Gilberton, where there were only 67 persons, and there the cost averaged 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per head of population in the district. Omitting the district of Maryborough, the average cost of the five lowest was 3¼*d.*; and omitting Gilberton, which like Maryborough was exceptional, the average cost of the five highest was 8*s.* 5*d.*

Scattered condition of settlement

23. It will be seen that the work of enumeration in the outlying districts is very costly; settlement having now extended itself over almost the whole of the great area of the country, and the population being very sparsely spread over a great portion of it, this scattered condition of the people must necessarily obtain for a great many years to come, and it is evident that the cost of each census enumeration must be very considerable.

Total cost.

24. The cost of taking the census, including payment of enumerators, collectors, office work in tabulating, compiling, &c., postages, carriage of parcels and schedules, furniture, and gas fittings in offices for census purposes, including clerical aid for correcting tables now passing through the press, together with one or two amounts not yet paid, will be a little within the amount that had been voted by Parliament for this purpose, viz., 8,649*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The total cost per head, exclusive of printing in the Government office, has amounted to a little over 1l$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*

25. It may be a matter for consideration whether the advantage of numbering the population so frequently as once in five years is not too dearly paid for; especially as the exact system of registration, and the means of ascertaining the balance of immigration over emigration, always in regular operation, have hitherto enabled us to estimate the population with a fair approach to exactness.*

Householders' schedules first issue.

26. Householders' Schedules were forwarded to the enumerators in each district as early as the 25th of November 1875, to secure their being in time for the distant places, such as Somerset, Burke, Palmer, Gilberton, Etheridge and other districts in the far north and west. The remainder were despatched in February 1876. In each case they reached their destination in good time, and the supply was ample for the purpose required.

Numbers despatched.

27. The whole number of householders' schedules despatched was 115,250. This was many more than were used, but it was of course necessary to guard against the possibility of too scanty a supply, a defect which it might have been impossible to rectify.

Census taken May, 1st 1876.

28. The census was taken on the night of the 1st of May 1876, as required by the Act.

First return of schedules.

Last received.

29. The first return of schedules was from the district of Stanthorpe, on the 16th of May, the bulk of the remainder came in during May and June; those from places more remote continued to be received until the latter part of July. The last from Burke were not received until the 14th of August, but the numbers from that district had been previously obtained by wire for the purpose of completing the preliminary statement before alluded to.

Complaints.

30. Some complaints having been made that the schedules had not been called for by the collectors, advertisements were ordered from this office to be inserted in some of the principal newspapers, addressed to any householders who might have been overlooked in the general delivery of census papers, or whose schedules might not have been called for, or who otherwise had cause of complaint, requesting that such circumstances should be at once reported. Each complaint reaching this office was carefully inquired into, and little, if any, ground was found to exist for dissatisfaction, except in the case of the collector of the Rosewood Scrub, where

Some omissions remedied in one district.

* The Registrar-General of the United Kingdom has strongly urged that census enumerations should be made throughout the Empire decennially, and at the same period, the night of April 2nd; many Imperial questions of great interest being involved in a simultaneous collection. The question, therefore, includes more than the consideration of our local convenience.

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some omissions had occurred, but which were remedied in time before any authorised return was published.

Brisbane District.

31. The Brisbane District might, with advantage, have been more minutely subdivided, the population having much increased since the last census enumeration; but the old sub-divisions having been retained, some of the collectors found it took longer than they expected to get all the schedules gathered in.

Duties of enumerators well performed.

32. Judging from the experience of most of the enumerators who had assisted on previous occasions, and from the evident ability and energy they manifested in the performance of the work entrusted to their management, there is every reason to believe that their duties were carefully and well performed.

Diaries of collectors.

33. The diaries of the collectors were certified to by each of the enumerators, who were immediately responsible for the correctness of the work done and the days charged for; but, as a further precaution, the accounts were again carefully examined with the diaries in this office, and in some few cases the charges were disallowed. The diaries were found generally to have been well kept; some few were meagre and of little value, but others had been carefully and minutely written.

Some charges disallowed.

Results substantially correct.

34. The work of collecting the census was no doubt on the whole efficiently done, and allowing the usual $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for some omissions which must occur in numbering a comparatively small population scattered over so wide an area as 669,520* square miles, the results may be relied on as substantially correct.

Remuneration of clerks.

35. The clerks employed in posting the schedules were engaged at first at 7*s.* 6*d.* a day; two only received 10*s.* a day; but as soon as it had been ascertained how many schedules ought to be posted by each person, all were paid at a fixed rate of 3*s.* a hundred, and each was required correctly to post a minimum of 250, but was paid at the same rate for any number over this. The census staff proved on the whole very efficient, performing their work carefully and correctly. Valuable aid was received from Mr. Charles James Whitley, and under him Mr. George Bourne has been a diligent worker.

Cost of first posting of schedules.

36. The despatching of the schedules, most of which had to be sent through the post office, necessitated a cost of 73*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* In this, as in every other part of the work, the greatest economy has been observed.

Information sought for.

37. The information to be obtained, and provided for under Schedule A. of the Act, included the name and surname of each member of the household, their relationship to the head of the family, their sex, age, separate or conjugal condition, rank, occupation, religion, and degree of primary education; also, a description of the dwelling in which the family resided, whether of wood, stone, or brick, linen, &c. The posting consisted in condensing this information by putting the contents of the schedules into large tabular sheets, the males and females separately arranged, under the following general heads:—

Posting into tabular sheets.

* Recently given in the Survey Office as the area in square miles.

Social condition.	Religion.
Ages.	Education.
Occupations.	Domiciliation.
Birthplaces.	Ailments.

Checking figures and compiling information.

38. After the preliminary statement had been prepared to be submitted to Parliament, a fresh arrangement was made for checking the whole of the previous work, and for compiling the figures hereto appended.

Classification.

39. The classification comprises a series of tables under each one of the several heads, including those above named, arranged under census districts, electoral districts, municipalities, and towns. An index is given with the several parts into which the classification is divided, and summaries generally precede the tables.

Population.

Population.

40. In a new country like Queensland, embracing a territory of 669,520 square miles,* with a population which in 1859, at the beginning of its existence as a separate Colony, numbered only 23,570 souls, the increase of population is synonymous with that of wealth and prosperity. Perhaps this cannot receive clearer proof than by a comparison of the amount of such increase with the figures showing the revenue of the Colony from customs' receipts in the successive annual periods of our existence. The following table exhibits this, giving mean population each year from 1860 to June 1875, the amount of customs' receipts, and the amount per head of the population.

Comparison of population with figures showing revenue.

TABLE A.—SHOWING MEAN POPULATION, CUSTOMS' RECEIPTS, and RECEIPTS per HEAD of POPULATION, from 1st January 1860 to 30th June 1875.

Year.	Estimated Mean Population.	Customs' Receipts.	Receipts per Head of Population.
	Persons.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860 - - - -	25,788	59,210 3 7	2 5 11
1861 - - - -	31,211	71,678 18 11	2 5 11
1862 - - - -	39,722	96,107 11 8	2 8 4½
1863 - - - -	53,358	125,199 6 11	2 6 9
1864 - - - -	67,838	153,341 19 6	2 5 2½
1865 - - - -	80,920	195,540 15 1	2 8 3½
1866 - - - -	92,003	223,384 13 11	2 8 6¾
1867 - - - -	98,025	283,366 10 11	2 17 9¾
1868 - - - -	103,638	333,636 8 8	3 4 4½
1869 - - - -	108,662	308,719 7 8	2 16 9¾
1870 - - - -	112,732	288,470 16 1	2 11 2
1871 - - - -	120,356	324,078 15 0	2 13 10¼
1872 - - - -	129,350	403,640 17 5	3 2 5
1873 - - - -	140,122	480,913 0 4	3 8 7⅓
1874 - - - -	155,103	485,382 11 1	3 2 7
1875—Half-year to 30th June	169,299	227,545 13 10	1 6 10½ nearly

* The area in square miles has been recently computed afresh, and the above corrected figures are given by the Surveyor-General. The area was previously estimated 678,600 square miles.

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Total population as returned, 173,283 persons.

41. The total population, as returned by the enumerators, and as shown in the General Summary, Table No. 1, numbers 173,283 persons, consisting of 105,009 males and 68,274 females, this being exclusive of the aborigines of the country, who have not been numbered in this or any previous enumeration of the people.

Exclusive of aborigines.

42. It is to be regretted that means have not been devised for getting some approximate estimate, at least, of the aboriginal inhabitants; but there are great, if not insuperable, difficulties in the way, arising out of the habits and condition of the natives; and the only plan that could be thought of for attempting a rough estimate in connexion with this enumeration was considered likely to interfere too much with the ordinary work of the census collectors.

Manner of estimating population from year to year.

43. It has been pointed out in the preliminary statement that the estimated number of persons as given in the Vital Statistics of 1875 was 181,288, and that these estimates from year to year are arrived at by adding to the numbers as ascertained at each census, first 2½ per cent. to allow for omissions, and then the increase from the excess of births over deaths in each year taken from the registers, and the increase from excess of immigration over emigration by sea.

Exchanges by immigration and emigration overland.

44. Hitherto it had been presumed that the exchange by immigration and emigration overland between this and the neighbouring Colony had been about equal, and this had been borne out by the results of each census, which made the population very nearly as it had been thus estimated. The difference shown on this occasion may have its explanation in a slight degree in the almost insuperable difficulties experienced in collecting the census on the Palmer gold-fields, from the occurrence, just at the time arrangements were being made, of the rush to the Hodgkinson, upon which the enumerator, Mr. Warden Selheim, thus remarks:—"Owing to the breaking out of the Hodgkinson rush, no more "unfavourable time for the taking of the census could have been "selected as far as my district was concerned. The whole "population, European as well as Chinese, were on the move, "and it has been a matter of extreme difficulty and expense to "secure anything like a correct return." The difference, however, is no doubt chiefly accounted for by a balance against us during the five years since the census was taken in 1871 of immigration and emigration over the border

Census on Palmer gold-fields.

Rush to the Hodgkinson.

Actual population.

45. To allow for a proportion certain to be overlooked in counting up so scattered a population as we have, in many parts of the Colony, it has been customary to add 2½ per cent. in order to arrive at a correct estimate of the actual population. This would bring the number to 177,615, which is no doubt a very near approximation to the population of the Colony.

Increase since 1871.

46. The population as enumerated in 1871 having been 120,104, and as taken in this census 173,283, there is an increase of 53,179 souls, which is at the rate of 44·28 per cent. in the five

years. By the census report of the neighbouring Colony of New South Wales for 1871, the last received, it is seen that the increase in the population since 1861 in that Colony had been 43·64 per cent. for the 10 years.

Proportion of females to males.

47. The proportion of females to males in the Queensland census returns of 1876 shows a still greater inequality in the sexes than had been estimated during the last decennium. The average for 10 years, from 1866 to 1875, had been 66·30 females to 100 males; the proportion as shown by the census being 65·01 to 100. A considerable increase of males as compared to females took place in the year 1875, chiefly from a larger immigration than usual of South Sea Islanders, and from a great influx of Chinese to our northern gold-fields.

Increase of males in 1875.

Disproportion obtaining chiefly on gold-fields, &c.

48. It will be observed that the inequality of the sexes varies very much in different localities; and, indeed, as might be expected, chiefly obtains in the pastoral and mining districts of the country. In the census district of Brisbane, the proportion of the sexes is nearly equal. In the districts of Drayton and Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Warwick, and Fassifern there is no great disproportion. In the census district of Ipswich the females outnumber the males. In Darling Downs, north and east, in the Leichhardt, Wide Bay, and Burnett District, the number of males is nearly double that of the females; while in the more remote pastoral, and in the gold mining districts, the number of females to males is very small, constituting only a fifth, a sixth, a seventh, an eighth, a tenth, a twelfth of the whole population. In the district of the Palmer the female population forms only one seventy-sixth of the whole, the great bulk of the population being Chinese.

Disproportion only among adults.

49. The disproportion between the sexes is found chiefly among the adult population; the births of males and females in Queensland, as in other parts of the world, being nearly equal.

Summary tables of population, &c.

Uninhabited dwellings.

50. Tables 1, 2, 3, 4 are summary tables, showing population, inhabitants, and dwellings comparatively, in the several years in which a census has been taken. It is curious to observe, and perhaps it may be taken as indicative of a somewhat varying rate of general prosperity, that in 1864 there were 658 dwellings returned as uninhabited; in 1868 there were 2,039 empty houses, and in 1876 there were 862 dwellings unoccupied.

Houses in building.

51. The number of houses returned as in the course of construction in the last enumeration is 28 only. This appears a very small number, though it exceeds by three the number returned as in building at the previous census. In 1864 the number of houses being erected was given as 678. It appears likely that the collectors have omitted, in many instances, to observe what buildings were being put up in their sub-districts; as in Brisbane alone there must have been a larger number of houses in the course of construction than the total number returned for the entire Colony.

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Population in census districts compared 1871 and 1876.

52. No. 5 table shows the population in census districts in each of the enumerations, as far as this can be presented in a tabular form, the several changes made in the district rendering this somewhat difficult.

Electoral districts within census districts.

53. Table 7 gives the population of the electoral districts within the census districts, showing the whole number divided into males and females, and the number of minors and adults in each electorate.

Electoral Districts Act, 1872.

54. The electoral districts are given as fixed by "The Electoral Districts Act of 1872," 36 Vict., No. 10, which includes Burke, previously unrepresented, and by "The Cook District Representation Act of 1875," 39 Vict., No. 6.

Distribution.

Area.

55. The total area of Queensland being now computed at 669,520 square miles, instead of 678,600 as before estimated, and the boundaries of several of the districts having been altered, it has been necessary to give a corrected estimate of population to the square mile in the tables referring to density of population, for purposes of comparison, in the several census districts.

Population to the square mile.

56. The relation that the number of the people bear to the area of the country is a question of interest and importance in connexion with the settlement of the territory, apart from other considerations determining its capabilities for supporting a population.

Density of population in England.

57. The density of the population in England in 1861 was given as 344 persons to each square mile. Including the whole territory of Queensland, much of which is yet unoccupied, and taking the numbers found by the census, 173,283, it is seen that to each person living in the Colony there are 3·86 square miles of country; or, in other words, that the proportion of persons in the population to the square mile is 0·26.

Comparison of density in several districts in Queensland.

58. In the Brisbane District the area of the country is $8\frac{3}{4}$ square miles; the population, exclusive of shipping, 26,520, giving 3030·86 to the square mile. The united district of Drayton and Toowoomba contains a population of 9,499 souls, the area is 103 square miles, giving 99·22 to each square mile. The next in order as to density of inhabitants is the census district of Maryborough, area 104 square miles, population 8,588, exclusive of shipping, or 82·58 souls to the square mile. Next comes Rockhampton District, with 196 miles of country, the population, exclusive of shipping, being 7,903, which gives 40·32 persons to the square mile. Then follows Oxley, with an area of 354 square miles; population 7,035; number to the square mile 19·87. The very unequal manner in which settlement has taken place throughout the country is further seen by an examination of table 11, showing the area of each, and the number of persons to the square mile of each census district in Queensland. The table also shows the area in square miles of the census districts at the two census enumerations of 1871 and 1876.

Unequal progress of settlement.

59. The distribution of the population is arranged in the second part of the classification under the heads Dwellings, Towns, Municipalities, Census Districts, and Shipping.

Dwellings towns, municipalities, census districts, and shipping.

60. Table 9 shows the area in square miles, dwellings, and population, exclusive of aborigines, persons, males, and females, in census districts.

61. Table 10 gives the number of dwellings of all descriptions in Queensland in the two census enumerations of 1871 and 1876 in a summary form.

Number of dwellings, 1871 and 1876.

62. Table 11 presents the density of population in the two last census enumerations, showing the area in square miles in each census district, and the number of persons to the square mile in each.

63. The domiciliation of the people, as shown in table 12, describes dwellings as constructed of stone, brick, or wood, &c. Under the description of wooden the greatest variety of buildings are included; some of the most costly and commodious residences in the Colony are constructed of sawn timber, and these are perhaps in many respects the best suited for the climate; while under the same head there is often the greatest possible difference, from the spacious mansion to the rough slab hut or unsightly gunyah.

Domiciliation.

Wooden dwellings.

64. A number of the buildings in and around the larger towns are elegant structures of cut stone, and within the last five years especially some very handsome bank buildings and other places of business have been erected in some of the principal places, more particularly in Brisbane. Too many of the habitations, however, even in these larger towns, are not remarkable for architectural design, or for the taste or variety displayed in their construction. The same square four-roomed cottage style, with a plain projection in front for the verandah, the door in the middle, and a square window on each side, is the invariable pattern, beyond which too many seem to find it impossible to rise.

More durable buildings.

Mode of construction.

65. In the country districts many of the wealthy class engaged in pastoral pursuits have large and handsome residences; and in the agricultural districts an increasing number of the farming class are getting out of the slab-hut style of cottage, and constructing their dwellings of sawn timber, many of them neatly built, and in some cases well painted. It is contended, however, by many residents in the Australian "bush" that the "open-house" style, with an inch or two between the rough slabs forming the wall, and with window places innocent of glass, are the most healthy of all habitations in this country; and indeed there can be little doubt that in such a climate as we possess, persons may live almost out of doors during a great part of the year without taking much damage, and the great healthfulness of the country in the well settled districts as compared to the Australian towns is in proof that superiority of house accommodation and the possession of robust health are by no means coincident.

In country districts.

Open-house style.

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Habitations on gold-fields.

66. The large gold digging population residing in the Colony generally dwell in "houses by courtesy," that is, in such habitations as by the Census Act may be designated by this term, viz. :—"Any house, building, booth, tent, hut, or other erection "in or under which," &c., &c. Table 13 shows the number of inhabited dwellings to the square mile in 1871 and 1876.

Number of inhabited dwellings.

Average occupants to each dwelling.

67. The number of inhabited dwellings of all kinds is returned as 36,552. This gives an average number of occupants of nearly $4\frac{3}{4}$ to each dwelling, exclusive of shipping, as seen in table 14. In 1871 the proportion given is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inhabitants to each dwelling. In the last census report received from New South Wales it is seen that in 1871 there were 196 to every 1,000 persons, or a proportion of 5·11 to each habitation.

Shipping.

68. The number and description of ships and vessels in Queensland waters on the night of the 1st of May, the locality of such ships, and the number of persons on board of each, is given in table 15. This shows the places where the vessels were lying, and the census districts to which the locality belonged. The

Total number of persons on board.

total number of persons was 1,267; the number of officers and crew, 1,011; the number returned as passengers, 256; the number of sea-going vessels, 77; the number of river vessels 54, including 27 steamers.

69. Although the total number of persons on ship-board is not very large, it approaches to double the number, as found in the census of 1871.

Females to males.

70. The proportion of females to males on board the shipping is seen to have been 2·9 per cent.

Boundaries of districts and sub-districts.

71. The boundaries of the census districts and the collectors' sub-districts will be found described in table 16. Fify-two census districts were proclaimed in the "Government Gazette" of the 11th of February 1876. (See Appendix, letter D.) The districts were arranged geographically in groups, as shown in table 24. An alphabetical index is contained in Appendix, letter E.

Territorial divisions.

72. In the final arrangement of the districts it was determined to adopt the three great divisions of the territory recently projected, namely, northern, central, and southern; then to retain, where practicable, the census divisions as they were in the previous enumeration of 1871, but forming some new districts in localities where a considerable increase of settlement had recently

Alterations in districts.

taken place. This necessitated some alteration of the adjoining districts, but in carrying out these unavoidable changes the boundaries of the police districts were strictly adhered to.

Police and census districts.

73. The police and census districts thus made identical were Somerset, Palmer, Cook, Etheridge, Gilberton, Burke, Marathon, Blackall, Tambo, Charleville, Stanthorpe, Gympie, Tiaro, Bundaberg. Cunnamulla is also the same in its outside boundaries; the census district of that name being taken out of what had formed the police district of Cunnamulla.

New census districts.

74. The newly formed census districts are eleven, namely, Somerset and Palmer, out of the former district of Cook; Etheridge, out of the former districts of Cook and Gilbert, now called Gilberton; Marathon and Blackall, out of the former districts of Burke and Mitchell, the last-named district being now absorbed in the two first named; Tambo, out of the old district of Mitchell; Cunnamulla and Charleville, formed out of part of the old district of Warrego; Stanthorpe, taken out of Darling Downs East; Bundaberg, out of Wide Bay and Gladstone; and Tiaro, formed from portions of Wide Bay, Maryborough, and Gympie.

Alterations made.

75. The following may be useful in showing at a glance the alterations made:—

New Districts, 11.

Somerset, out of old district of Cook.
Palmer, out of old district of Cook.
Etheridge, out of old districts of Cook and Gilbert.
Marathon, out of old districts of Mitchell and Burke.
Blackall, out of old districts of Burke and Mitchell.
Tambo, out of old district of Mitchell.
Cunnamulla, out of old district of Warrego.
Charleville, out of old district of Warrego.
Stanthorpe, out of old district of Eastern Downs.
Tiaro, out of old districts of Gympie, Wide Bay, and Maryborough.
Bundaberg, out of old districts of Wide Bay and Gladstone.

Altered Districts, 9.

Gilberton, part of old district of Gilbert, the new district of Etheridge, and part of altered district of Burke being taken from it.
Burke, part of old district of Burke, part of the new districts of Marathon and Blackall being taken from it.
Cook, part of old district of Cook, the new districts of Somerset and Palmer being taken from it.
Warrego, part of old district of Warrego, the new districts of Charleville and Cunnamulla being taken from it.
Eastern Downs, part of old district of Eastern Downs, the new district of Stanthorpe being taken from it.
Gladstone, part of old district of Gladstone, a small portion between the range and Lyttabella Creek, now forming part of the new district of Bundaberg.
Wide Bay, part of the old district of Wide Bay, a portion of the new districts of Tiaro and of Bundaberg being taken from it.
Maryborough, part of the old district of Maryborough, a portion of the new district of Tiaro being taken from it.
Gympie, part of the old district of Gympie, a portion of the new district of Tiaro being taken from it.

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Boundaries checked in Lands Office.

76. On the authority of the Under Secretary for Lands, Mr. Tully, the boundaries of all the districts have been checked, and their correctness verified in the Survey Office.

Registry districts and census districts made alike.

77. The approval of the Government having been obtained, all the registry districts were made identical with the census districts, and were proclaimed as thus altered in the "Government Gazette" of the 26th of February 1876. The advantage of making the registry and census districts alike will be very great in furnishing the means of making the registry returns so that they may be compared with the returns of population as shown in the census returns at each quinquennial period.

Overlapping of old registry districts taken as first sub-divisions.

78. The enumerators were instructed to take the portions of their new census districts that were overlapped by the old registry districts as the basis of their sub-divisions, and the district registrars were requested to keep the particulars of the vital statistics separate for these portions; and this has proved quite successful, so that the registry returns, even for the first year, in the new order in the altered portions of the districts have been in a proper form for showing a comparison of the vital statistics of the last and previous years.

Maps.

79. The maps accompanying these tables and report show the districts in plain black lines, and sub-divisions in red lines. The zigzag lines show the overlappings of the old registry districts, the boundaries of which are described in the Appendix thereto, letter H.

Population on gold-fields.

80. The number of persons living on gold-fields is shown in table 17. It will be seen that there are now 20,288 persons connected with the industry of gold finding, forming nearly 12 per cent. of the whole population. This is a considerable proportionate increase since the census taking of 1871, when the proportion was a little over 10 per cent.

81. It is questionable whether, from the peculiar circumstances before alluded to, there may not have been a considerable number, of persons on the Palmer gold-fields who have been overlooked in the enumeration. Had it been possible to get an exact return of the number in that district, our gold digging population would thus probably have appeared more than as now shown. It is, however, very satisfactory to observe how large a number of persons are now obtaining a livelihood by this means, and over what an extent of country the precious metal has been already found deposited in considerable quantities. The Hodgkinson field, the rush to which so much interfered with our census arrangements on the Palmer, has proved to be very rich, and before the taking of the next census a very large population will, in all probability, have been settled in that locality.

Hodgkinson.

82. The mineral productions of the country will be remarked upon more fully under head of Occupations.

Population of towns and townships.

83. The population of towns and townships, exclusive of municipalities, as given in the list of towns, table 13, Census

Report of 1871, and as now returned for 1876, is shown in table 18.

84. It will be seen in table 18 B that several of these places are almost without inhabitants, some of them being returned as containing so few as from two to ten residents. The list of reserves, surveyed for townships but returned as without population, is appended to the last-mentioned table.

Municipalities.

85. The population of municipalities is shown in table 19, with increase or decrease for 1871 and 1876.

Comparison of 1871 and 1876.

86. There is some difficulty in making a comparison in a tabular form of the population of the whole of the towns, so that it would be clearly understood, chiefly in consequence of the omission in the list of the towns in 1871 of those places connected with gold-fields, these having there been given only under the latter head.

87. Where settlement is rapidly increasing, and while some few places are deserted, other towns and villages rising up in many new localities, but subject to the fluctuating and disturbing element of gold finding, it is somewhat difficult to distinguish fairly and intelligibly between what ought to be classed as rural and town population. To make the comparison as fairly and plainly as possible, it has been thought well in this report to take such places as contain as many as a hundred inhabitants and upwards, classing these among the town population, the remainder being considered as belonging to the rural districts.

Rural and town population.

Towns with as many as 100 inhabitants.

88. In the subjoined table the population of municipalities proper, as returned in 1876, is shown compared with that of 1871; to which is added the population of all the towns containing as many as a hundred persons, including the portions of those townships connected with gold finding which are outside the boundaries of the proclaimed gold-fields; with the addition also of the population outside the municipal boundaries, but within the towns or their immediate suburbs, and the shipping. The list of towns as seen in table 18 B, does not show the shipping or the population in municipal towns, nor does it include the gold-fields portion of any towns; this being given in table 17, under the head of "Gold-fields."*

Town population.

Rural population.

90. The number of persons thus considered as residing in towns in 1876 is 95,783, consisting of 52,226 males and 43,557 females, being 55·27 per cent. of the whole population. The remainder, that is 77,500*l.*, constitutes what may be called the rural population, consisting of 52,783 males and 24,717 females, forming together 44·73 per cent. of the population.

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* In the Census Returns of 1871, the whole population of towns connected with gold-fields was included under "Gold-fields," and did not appear in the list of towns. This time an attempt has been made to separate the two in the enumeration, and the distinction as returned in the schedules has been followed in the compilation. The last two footnotes at page 50 are incorrectly inserted, as shown in the errata.

TABLE B.—SHOWING the POPULATION of MUNICIPALITIES and TOWNS containing 100 INHABITANTS and OVER, 1871 and 1876, with NUMERICAL and CENTESIMAL INCREASE.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Name of Municipality.	Census Districts.	Population, 1871.			Population, 1876.			Increase.					
								Numerical.			Centesimal.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Allora - - -	Darling Downs, East -	412	211	201	477	244	233	65	33	32	15·78	15·64	15·92
Bowen - - -	Bowen - - -	717	325	392	1,107	610	497	390	285	105	54·39	87·69	26·79
Brisbane* - -	Brisbane - - -	15,029	7,204	7,825	20,645*	10,420	10,225	5,616	3,216	2,400	37·37	44·64	30·67
Clermont - -	Clermont - - -	225	151	74	792	494	298	567	343	224	252·00	227·15	302·70
Copperfield - -	Peak Downs - -	997	624	373	1,430	838	592	433	214	219	43·43	34·29	58·71
Dalby - - -	Darling Downs, North -	1,647	815	832	1,870	891	979	223	76	147	13·54	9·33	17·67
Drayton - -	Darling Downs, Central -	792	398	394	869	447	422	77	49	28	9·72	12·31	7·11
Gayndah - -	Burnett - - -	671	315	356	608	323	285	−63	8	−71	−9·39	2·54	−19·94
Gladstone - -	Gladstone - - -	411	206	205	461	220	241	50	14	36	12·17	6·80	17·56
Ipswich - -	Ipswich - - -	4,820	2,341	2,479	5,223	2,574	2,649	403	233	170	8·36	9·91	6·86
Mackay - -	Mackay - - -	729	408	321	1,479	793	686	750	385	365	102·88	94·36	113·71
Maryborough - -	Maryborough - -	3,542	1,788	1,754	5,659	2,864	2,795	2,117	1,076	1,041	59·77	60·18	59·35
Rockhampton - -	Rockhampton - -	5,064	2,614	2,450	6,401	3,265	3,136	1,337	651	686	26·40	24·90	28·00
Roma - - -	Maranoa - - -	841	486	355	1,152	678	474	311	192	119	36·98	39·51	33·52
Toowoomba - -	Drayton and Toowoomba	3,543	1,728	1,815	4,695	2,344	2,351	1,155	616	536	32·51	35·65	29·53
Townsville - -	Townsville - -	1,140	670	470	2,174	1,171	1,003	1,034	501	533	90·70	74·78	113·40
Warwick - -	Warwick - -	2,473	1,260	1,213	3,152	1,584	1,568	679	324	355	27·45	25·71	29·27
	Total - -	43,053	21,544	21,509	58,194	29,760	28,434	15,141	8,216	6,925	35·18	38·13	32·20

* Ex-Municipalities given with the Towns.

Table B.—Showing the Population of Municipalities and Towns, &c.—*continued.*

TOWNS OUTSIDE MUNICIPAL AND GOLD FIELDS BOUNDARIES, INCLUDING SHIPPING.

Name of Town.	Census Districts.	Population, 1871.			Population, 1876.			Increase.					
								Numerical.			Centesimal.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Alfred - - -	Moreton, West - -	—	—	—	167	82	85	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aramac - - -	Marathon - - -	—	—	—	130	104	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
Banana - - -	Leichhardt - - -	122	78	44	110	67	43	−12	−11	−1	−9·84	−14·10	−2·27
Barolin - - -	Bundaberg - - -	—	—	—	264	149	115	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beenleigh - -	Logan - - -	73	46	27	432	244	188	359	198	161	491·78	430·42	596·30
Blackall - -	Blackall - - -	43	37	6	155	113	42	112	76	36	260·47	205·41	600·00
Boolburra - -	Leichhardt - - -	—	—	—	216	139	77	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bouldercombe -	Westwood - - -	—	—	—	149	81	68	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brisbane, ex Municipality.	Brisbane - - -	4,384	2,174	2,210	6,308	3,435	2,873	1,924	1,261	663	43·88	58·00	30·00
Bundaberg - -	Bundaberg - - -	117	72	45	617	327	290	500	255	245	427·35	354·17	544·44
Byerstown - -	Palmer - - -	—	—	—	996	983	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calliope - -	Gladstone - - -	250	158	92	248	132	116	−2	−26	24	−00·80	−16·46	26·08
Cardwell - -	Cardwell - - -	96	48	48	139	79	60	43	31	12	44·79	64·58	25·00
Cawarral - -	St. Lawrence - -	296	182	114	128	90	38	−168	−92	−76	−56·76	−50·55	−66·67
Charleville - -	Charleville - - -	58	42	16	114	73	41	56	31	25	96·55	73·81	156·25
Charters Towers -	Kennedy, North - -	—	—	—	943	613	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland - -	Moreton, East - -	180	93	87	248	111	137	68	18	50	37·78	19·35	57·47
Condamine - -	Darling Downs, North -	203	105	98	166	89	77	−37	−16	−21	−18·23	−15·24	−21·43
Cooktown - -	Cook - - -	—	—	—	2,185	1,670	515	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coomera - -	Logan - - -	—	—	—	278	179	99	—	—	—	—	—	—
Duaringa - -	Leichhardt - - -	—	—	—	434	261	173	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fassifern - -	Fassifern - - -	—	—	—	247	149	98	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gainsford - -	Leichhardt - - -	74	43	31	129	69	60	55	26	29	74·32	60·46	93·55
Gatton - - -	Moreton, West - -	—	—	—	203	99	104	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgetown - -	Etheridge - - -	50	48	2	223	178	45	173	130	43	346·00	270·83	2150·00
Gogango - -	Westwood - - -	—	—	—	126	78	48	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goodna - - -	Oxley - - -	282	144	138	444	218	226	162	74	88	57·45	51·39	63·76
Goondiwindi - -	Darling Downs, West -	129	71	58	245	143	102	116	72	44	89·92	101·41	75·86
Gympie - -	Gympie - - -	4,460	2,651	1,809	1,288	661	627	−3,172	−1,990	−1,182	−71·12	−75·06	−65·34
Gracemere - -	Rockhampton - -	—	—	—	223	121	102	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hodgson - -	Maranoa - - -	51	23	28	111	58	53	60	35	25	117·64	152·17	89·29
Ipswich - -	Ipswich - - -	2,768	1,438	1,330	2,507	1,253	1,254	−261	−185	−76	−9·43	−12·87	−5·71

Table B.—Showing the Population of Municipalities and Towns, &c.—*continued.*

Towns outside Municipal and Gold Fields Boundaries, including Shipping—*continued.*

Name of Town.	Census Districts.	Population, 1871.			Population, 1876.			Increase.					
								Numerical.			Centesimal.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Laidley - - -	Moreton, West - -	—	—	—	177	89	88	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leyburn - -	Darling Downs, East -	228	109	119	287	150	137	59	41	18	25·88	37·61	15·13
Maryborough - -	Maryborough - -	2,784	1,897	887	2,953	2,031	922	169	134	35	6·07	7·06	3·95
Maytown - -	Palmer - - -	—	—	—	141	99	42	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milchester - -	Kennedy, North - -	—	—	—	1,253	863	390	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nanango - -	Burnett - - -	161	85	76	158	97	61	−3	12	−15	−1·86	14·12	−19·74
Nebo - - -	Peak Downs - -	54	29	25	107	64	43	53	35	18	98·15	120·69	72·00
Nerang - -	Logan - - -	—	—	—	161	111	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ravenswood - -	Kennedy, North - -	1,844	1,492	352	1,124	594	530	−720	898	−178	−39·05	60·19	−50·57
Rockhampton - -	Rockhampton - -	1,409	810	599	1,658	943	715	249	133	116	17·67	16·42	19·37
Sandgate - -	Caboolture - - -	132	63	69	368	186	182	236	123	113	178·79	195·24	163·77
Somerset - -	Somerset - - -	11	9	2	187	162	25	176	153	23	1600·00	1700·00	1150·00
Springsure - -	Springsure - - -	370	201	169	495	292	203	125	91	34	33·78	45·27	20·12
Springton - -	Leichhardt - - -	—	—	—	151	91	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stanthorpe - -	Stanthorpe - - -	—	—	—	1,079	558	521	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. George - -	Balonne - - -	147	92	55	350	209	141	203	117	86	138·10	127·17	156·36
St. Lawrence - -	St. Lawrence - -	217	117	100	312	166	146	95	49	46	43·78	41·88	46·00
Surat - - -	Balonne - - -	108	52	56	160	99	61	52	47	5	48·15	90·38	8·93
Tambo - - -	Tambo - - -	83	57	26	249	181	68	166	124	42	200·00	217·54	161·54
Taroom - -	Taroom - - -	107	60	47	124	69	55	17	9	8	15·89	15·00	17·02
Teningering - -	Burnett - - -	—	—	—	791	552	239	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tiaro - - -	Tiaro - - -	189	100	89	905	533	372	716	433	283	378·84	433·00	317·98
Toowoomba - -	Drayton and Toowoomba	2,744	1,440	1,303	3,935	2,118	1,817	1,191	677	514	43·40	46·98	39·45
Westwood - -	Westwood - - -	162	102	60	157	89	68	−5	−13	8	−3·09	−12·75	13·33
Yaamba - -	St. Lawrence - -	82	39	43	134	72	62	52	33	19	63·41	84·62	44·19
		24,413	14,126	10,287	37,589	22,466	15,123	13,176	8,340	4,836	53·97	59·04	47·01
	Total Municipalities -	43,053	21,544	21,509	58,194	29,760	28,434						
	Grand Total - -	67,466	35,670	31,796	95,783	52,226	43,557						

Urban, pastoral and agricultural, and gold-finding population.

91. The occupation of gold-finding having now developed into large proportions, it appears necessary to separate the considerable part of the population connected with this industry. In the above simple classification of urban and rural population, all persons resident on gold-fields are included among the latter; these being deducted, the population is distributed as follows:— Total as returned, 173,283; urban, 95,783, or 55·27 per cent.; pastoral and agricultural, 57,212, or 33·02 per cent.; gold-finding, 20,288, or 11·70 per cent.

Classification in 1871.

92. In the report of the last census, 1871, it is seen that the gold-fields and towns population, including the shipping, numbered 64,467, while that which would have been fairly classed as rural numbered 55,637. Dividing the population in this way, simply into town and country, if the shipping and gold-fields are included in the former the rural population as returned in 1871 would show a smaller number than the towns; but by the classification now adopted, considering those occupied in gold-finding apart, the portion of the population connected with pastoral and agricultural pursuits is seen to have been in a larger proportion in 1871 than that of the towns; the former being 55,637, the latter 52,101.

Rural population decreased.

93. It is seen by the figures given above for 1876 that the proportion of the rural population is less now than in 1871. The population of several of our large towns has considerably increased, and Cooktown, the metropolis of the gold-producing districts in the north, has sprung into existence and become a populous place within the last five years. A decrease in the proportion of those employed as servants in pastoral occupations, from the causes presently to be noticed, has helped to alter the proportions between the town and country population; but the diminished proportion of the rural population, as shown in the enumeration in May last, is greatly attributable to a decline in the proportion of persons engaged in agriculture, which, as will be shown under the head of occupations, has fallen from 11·4 to 9·85 per cent. of the population. This may probably be accounted for by the fact that so few comparatively of our new arrivals now settle on the land, the bulk of them being mere labourers or mechanics, a great number of whom find regular or frequent employment in the larger towns.

94. The proportions per cent. of the population as thus divided, omitting those resident on gold-fields, in the two census periods of 1871 and 1876, are as follow:—

—	1871.	1876.
Urban - - -	43·38	55·27
Rural - - -	46·32	33·02

Increase in towns containing as many as 1,000 inhabitants.

95. The increase since 1868 of what may be called the principal towns, such as contain as many as 1,000 inhabitants, is shown as follows:—

TABLE C.—TOWNS having, in 1876, a POPULATION of 1,000 and UPWARDS, WITHIN and OUTSIDE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES. INCREASE from 1868 to 1876.

Name of Town.	Census District.	Population, 1868.			Population, 1871.			Population, 1876.			Numerical Increase or Decrease, from 1868 to 1876.			Centesimal Increase or Decrease, 1868 and 1876.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Bowen	Bowen	1,144	595	549	717	325	392	1,107	610	497	*—37	15	—52	—3·23	2·52	—9·47
Brisbane	Brisbane	14,265	6,893	7,372	18,455	8,937	9,518	26,953	13,855	13,098	12,688	6,962	5,726	88·94	101·00	77·67
Cooktown	Cook	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,185	1,670	515	2,185	1,670	515	—	—	—
Copperfield	Peak Downs	—	—	—	997	624	373	1,430	838	592	1,430	838	592	—	—	—
Dalby	Darling Downs, North	1,224	646	578	1,647	815	832	1,870	891	979	646	245	401	52·78	37·93	69·38
Gympie	Gympie	—	—	—	4,460	2,651	1,809	1,288	661	627	1,288	661	627	—	—	—
Ipswich	Ipswich	5,021	2,410	2,611	4,820	2,341	2,479	7,730	3,827	3,903	2,709	1,417	1,292	53·95	58·80	49·48
Mackay	Mackay	—	—	—	729	408	321	1,479	793	686	1,479	793	686	—	—	—
Maryborough	Maryborough	2,929	1,613	1,316	3,542	1,788	1,754	8,612	4,895	3,717	5,683	3,282	2,401	194·02	203·47	182·45
Millchester	Kennedy, North	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,253	863	390	1,253	863	390	—	—	—
Ravenswood	Kennedy, North	—	—	—	1,844	1,492	352	1,124	594	530	1,124	594	530	—	—	—
Rockhampton	Rockhampton	5,226	2,735	2,491	5,064	2,614	2,450	8,059	4,208	3,851	2,833	1,473	1,360	54·21	53·86	54·60
Roma	Maranoa	506	325	181	841	486	355	1,152	678	474	646	353	293	127·67	108·62	161·88
Stanthorpe	Stanthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,079	558	521	1,079	558	521	—	—	—
Toowoomba †	Drayton and Toowoomba	2,900	1,382	1,518	3,543	1,728	1,815	4,695	2,344	2,351	1,795	962	833	61·90	69·61	54·87
Townsville	Townsville	346	202	144	1,140	670	470	2,174	1,171	1,003	1,828	969	859	528·32	479·70	596·53
Warwick	Warwick	1,728	871	857	2,473	1,260	1,213	3,152	1,584	1,568	1,424	713	711	82·41	81·86	82·96
		35,289	17,672	17,617	50,272	26,139	24,133	75,342	40,040	35,302	40,053	22,368	17,685	113·50	126·57	100·38

* The minus sign — shows decrease.

† The population of the municipality only of Toowoomba is here given for comparison, as it has been found difficult to separate the population of the suburbs of this town from those of Drayton.

96. It will be seen that the largest increase has been in Brisbane, the numerical increase having been 12,688 during the period from the census enumeration of 1868. The next in order comes Maryborough, with an increase of 5,683; then Rockhampton, increase 2,833; Townsville, 1,828; Warwick, 1,424. Toowoomba has an increase in the municipality alone of 1,795. QUEENSLAND.

97. Brisbane contains a population of 26,953 persons, of whom 20,645 are within the municipality, and 6,308 in the suburban portions of the town, including the shipping. The whole number consists of 13,855 males and 13,098 females. Metropolis.

98. The increase of the metropolitan population is shown as follows, by a comparison of the several census enumerations:— Increase.

TABLE D.—SHOWING the POPULATION of BRISBANE in the YEARS 1861, 1864, 1868, 1871, and 1876, with NUMERICAL and CENTESIMAL INCREASE at each CENSUS ENUMERATION, and TOTAL INCREASE since 1868.

Name of Town.	Population.					Numerical Increase.				Centesimal Increase.				Total Increase since 1868.	
	1861.	1864.	1868.	1871.	1876.	1864.	1868.	1871.	1876.	1864.	1868.	1871.	1876.	Numerical.	Centesimal.
Brisbane -	6,051	12,551	14,265	18,455	26,953	6,500	1,714	4,190	8,498	107·42	13·66	29·37	38·84	12,688	88·94

99. The population of municipalities, divided into wards wherever these exist, with increase or decrease, in the census enumerations of 1871 and 1876, are given in table 19. The males are divided into minors and adults in the usual way in these returns. In municipalities.

100. Table 20 shows the number of Chinese, Polynesians, prisoners, and inmates of charitable institutions. These are placed together in electoral and census districts, not being estimated for electoral purposes. Chinese, Polynesians, prisoners, &c. &c.

101. The number of Chinese has increased since the taking of the last census in 1871 from 3,305 to 10,412. The explanation of the great augmentation of this class of the population is found in the attraction of the Palmer gold-fields, its proximity to the "flowery land," and the convenience of the Torres Straits line of steamers. Increase of Chinese.

102. It appears by the report of the census of 1871 that one female only was to be found among the 3,305 returned as Chinese. A slight improvement in this respect is seen in 1876, when 13 females are returned as included in the 10,412 persons enumerated under this head. Females.

103. Since the former census was taken in 1871 there has been a considerable increase by Polynesian immigration. The number returned in 1876 is 5,108 persons, of whom 4,938 are males, and 170 females. The increase since 1871 is 2,772, the number then returned being 2,336. The number of females in 1871 is returned as 81, and no improvement is seen here, the proportion of females being 3·3 per cent. as against 3·4 in 1871. Increase of Polynesians.

QUEENSLAND.

Females.

104. Table 21 shows the number of Chinese, Polynesians, prisoners, lunatics, and inmates of charitable institutions in the years 1871 and 1876, with increase of males and females separately.

Lunatics.

105. The number of lunatics returned is seen to be 357, which is in the proportion of 206 to 100.000 of the population. This is an increase of 141 persons thus afflicted during the last five years, the number returned in 1871 being 216, which was in the proportion only of 179 to 100,000 of the population.

Increase or Decrease of the Population.

Increase or decrease in census districts.

106. The changes which have been made from time to time in the boundaries of the census districts render it difficult to give an exact return of the increase and decrease of population in each in a tabular form; and as far as some of the separate districts are concerned, to do so has, in fact, become an impossibility. This is given as nearly as it is now practicable in table 22, which shows increase or decrease numerically by persons in the districts in periods from 1861 to 1864, from 1864 to 1868, from 1868 to 1871, and from 1871 to 1876; these being the years in which the census enumerations have been made. The table also shows the increase or decrease in these districts of males and females. The numbers are given for Brisbane, Ipswich, and Gladstone separately within the municipality and ex municipality.

Centesimal rates.

107. Table 23 shows the centesimal rates of increase of population within the same periods in the districts, and on the whole population of Queensland.

Arrangement of districts in groups.

Increase.

108. The impossibility of showing perfectly the increase in each separate district from the changes in the boundaries has partly suggested the arrangement of districts in groups, as seen in table 24. In the northern group, commencing with Somerset, and including the more settled country on the coast as far as Mackay, the population has very largely increased during the last five years, the centesimal increase amounting to 171·52. The north-central group, still keeping to districts near the coast line, shows an increase of 25·65. The south-central, in the same manner, shows 34·17. The West Moreton group, including Stanley, West Moreton, Ipswich, and Fassifern, shows an increase of 15·58. East Moreton, including Caboolture, Brisbane, East Moreton, Oxley, and Logan, show an increase of 43·25. The great western pastoral districts, including the whole of the far west through the length of the country from Burke to Cunnamulla, have largely added to their population in the same period, the centesimal increase in this group being 97·78.

Average annual increase.

Largest.

109. Taking the whole of Queensland, by far the largest average annual increase was during the period from 1861 to 1864. The census interval in this period was 2·71 years, the numerical increase was 31,408 persons, and the centesimal increase of population was 104·48, the average annual rate being 38·55.

110. The smallest rate of increase was between the census enumerations of 1868 and 1871. The interval then was 3·50 years; the numerical increase was 20,203, and the centesimal rate of increase 20·22, showing an average annual rate of 5·78. Queensland. Smallest.

111. Between the census enumerations of 1864 and 1868 the interval was 4·17 years, the increase in the number of persons was 38,434, and the centesimal increase 62·53, an average annual increase of 14·99. Increase, 1864–1868.

112. The last period between the enumerations of 1871 and 1876 was an interval of 4·66 years, during which the population has increased by 53,179 persons, the centesimal rate being 44·28, giving an average annual increase of 9·50. This is seen at a glance, as follows:— 1871–1876.

—	Centesimal Increase in the Period.	Average Annual Rate of Increase.
1861–64 - -	104·48	38·55
1864–68 - -	62·53	14·99
1868–71 - -	20·22	5·78
1871–76 - -	44·28	9·50

113. The boundaries of the electoral districts having been re-adjusted by the Act 36 Vict., No. 10., of 1872, the population of these districts appears for the first time in this enumeration of 1876, and no increase can be given or comparison made, the boundaries of these districts having been greatly changed since the census of 1871. Electoral districts, new boundaries.

Occupations.

114. The present scheme of classifying occupations differs somewhat from that adopted in the last census report, being more nearly assimilated to the English system as modified by that in use in Victoria, arranged under classes, orders, and sub-orders. Occupations. Classification.

115. There are twelve principal heads called classes, most of them embracing several orders, and some of them re-subdivided into sub-orders. Twelve classes.

116. Table 25 shows the occupations of all persons in Queensland, males and females, at the census enumerations of 1871 and 1876; the proportion per cent. of the whole population of persons of each class, order, and sub-order, and the numerical or centesimal increase or decrease since the last census enumeration.

117. Class I.—*Government.*—The classification under this head shows the whole number of persons employed in the public service, exclusive only of the native police; who, as aboriginals of the country, are not accounted in the census. The total number given is 3,104, of whom 2,861 are males and 243 are females. The proportion of persons thus returned as in the Government service forms 1·79 per cent. of the population. Government.

118. What are called the principal officers of Government, including the Governor, the Ministers of the Crown, officers of the

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army and navy, under secretaries, heads of departments, registrar of supreme court and sheriff, number 39; the number in 1871 having been 36.

Learned professions.

119. Class II.—*Learned Professions.*—Includes the clergy, the law, and the medical and other educated professions, with all persons engaged in literature, science, and art. As in the previous enumerations, midwives and nurses have been classed in the order of medicine; females returned as engaged in religious duties in connexion with churches or public institutions are classed under the head of Divinity.

Divinity.

120. In this class there are 1,310 males and 544 females; the whole number of 1,854 constituting 1·07 per cent. of the population.

Domestic duties.

121. Class III.—*Domestic Duties.*—Comprises more than half the population, including as it does all females not returned as assisting their husbands, or as themselves engaged in business; also, all children at home under 15 years of age, as well as children under tuition.

122. The proportion of females under this head is, of course, very large, being 56,705 to 30,307 males. The total, 87,012, forms 50·21 per cent. of the whole population.

Personal offices.

123. Class IV.—*Personal Offices.*—Under this head are included all engaged in the distribution of the necessaries of life, such as hotel keepers, eating house, and board and lodging house keepers, together, in many cases, with wives assisting in the business; also, domestic servants, office keepers, porters, messengers, and others of a like class. These number together 8,723 persons.

124. In this class also, the proportion of females greatly predominates, being 5,610 to 3,113 males. Together, they constitute 5·04 per cent. of the population.

Commercial.

125. Class V.—*Commercial.*—Includes capitalists, annuitants, and persons returned as of independent means; all persons engaged in commercial pursuits, bank officers and clerks, ship owners, shop keepers undefined, general dealers, &c.

126. Among this class there are few females, the total number under this head, 3,534, being composed of 3,263 males and 271 females, forming together 2·04 per cent. of the population.

This class does not include ordinary storekeepers, whose business is defined, such persons being put under the head "industrial" in Class IX.

Pastoral.

127. Class VI.—*Pastoral.*—Is divided simply into employers and employed, signifying Crown lessees and others engaged in grazing stock and their assistants and servants. It should be observed that the number returned as employed under this head would, no doubt, have been augmented had the census been taken nearer to the shearing season.

Employers and employed.

128. Employers under this division number 1,965, an increase of 54 since the last census was taken. The employed number 8,541; and here we have a decrease of 908 since 1871. It may be taken into account that the enumeration of 1871 took place

in September, nearer to the busy season on sheep stations, but this will certainly be insufficient to account for such a decrease. No doubt the system of fencing in the runs, now so general, enabling sheep owners to do with much fewer hands in the management of their large establishments, has chiefly to do with the decrease in the number of persons employed as servants in pastoral pursuits. The total number under the head pastoral is 10,506, or 6·06 per cent. of the whole population.

129. The proportion of females to males in this class is very small, showing only 144 females to 10,362 males; but it must be borne in mind in comparing the returns of males and females under this classification, that the large number of females returned under the head of "domestic duties" are not included in the "employers" and "employed."

Agricultural.

130. Class VII.—*Agricultural.*—Embraces all who are engaged in tilling the soil, including wheat-growers, sugar-planters, vine-growers, gardeners near the large towns, &c. It might have been desirable to have had this class divided, showing it under several separate orders, but the method previously in use has been again adopted as provided for under Schedule A. of "The Quinquennial Census Act." This class is also divided into employers and employed. This distinction is perhaps less obvious among the agricultural class than in any other of the occupations, a number of the small proprietary farmers doing their own work, except during the harvest season, when neighbours assist each other. Such persons are not properly speaking "employers," and they are not in any sense servants. Those classed as "employers" as returned under this head number 10,535, the employed numbering only 6,534.

Employers and employed.

131. The number of females in this class is only 2,324, the males being 14,745. It must be remembered, as mentioned above, that this does not include those returned under the head of "domestic duties."

132. The total number returned as "agricultural" is 17,069, this being 9·85 per cent. of the whole population; a decrease in the proportion since 1871, when they were 11·4 of the whole.

Proportion per cent. in the two classes in 1871 and 1876.

133. The proportion per cent. in the two classes, pastoral and agricultural, to the whole population in the years 1871 and 1876, will be clearly seen as follows:—

	1871.		1876.
Pastoral -	9·4	Pastoral -	6·06
Agricultural -	11·4	Agricultural -	9·85

The number of employers and employed in the two periods are as follows:—

	1871.
Pastoral employers - - -	1,911
Pastoral employed - - -	9,449
Agricultural employers - -	8,910
Agricultural employed - -	4,822

	1876.
Pastoral employers - - -	1,965
Pastoral employed - - -	8,541
Agricultural employers - -	10,535
Agricultural employed - -	6,534

Proportion of employers and employed.

134. It will be seen that under the class "pastoral" the employers returned in 1876 are in the proportion of about 2 to 8½ employed, but in the agricultural class the employers as returned far outnumber the employed, being in the proportion of 10 of the former to 6 of the latter; so that many returned as employers are not really so, but are proprietors of land doing the work of their farms themselves, or with the assistance of members of their own families, without paying for hired labour.

Carriers.

135. Class VIII.—*Carriers.*—This signifies carriers of persons, animals, goods, and messages, and includes all drivers of locomotives and vehicles, shipmasters, officers, and seamen, ship servants, watermen, porters, &c.; but exclusive of persons employed in these capacities under the Government.

Industrial.

136. The number of females under this class is only 23, that of males is 5,302. The total number, being 5,325, is 3·07 per cent. of the population.

137. Class IX.—*Industrial*—is very numerous. It comprehends workers and dealers in art and mechanical, animal, and vegetable productions, and in minerals.

Mining.

138. Great interest and importance attaches to this class of occupations from the numbers thus already finding employment, and from the prospects of increasing wealth derivable from the

Gold.

mineral resources of the country. Already the yield of gold exceeds in value that which had been long almost the only important staple of the country; the exports of wool during the years 1874 and 1875 having been less in value than that of the precious metal.

Sub-orders.

139. Under the division of minerals there are five sub-orders, namely:—gold alluvial, gold quartz, copper, tin, and coal.

Tin.

140. Tin mining appears now for the first time among the industries of the country, the extensive tin deposits in the district now appropriately named Stanthorpe having been discovered since the census enumerations of 1871.

Copper.

141. The development of tin mining, like that of copper, has been fluctuating, but there can be little doubt that mining in both these metals is destined to become a source of considerable wealth in this part of Australia.

142. The number engaged as tin miners, all returned as males, is 799. There are 396 persons employed in obtaining copper, all

Coal.

but one returned as males. Coal mining employs 194 persons, all males. Some of the coal obtained is of a superior quality. Probably this may be procured before long in much larger quantities.

Numbers employed in gold-finding.

143. Gold mining, including alluvial, employs 12,541 persons, three only being returned as females. The numbers resident on

the gold-fields, seen in table 17 to be 20,288, includes women and children returned under the heads of "domestic duties" and "personal offices," as well as a great many persons resident on gold-fields, and more or less dependent on this branch of industry, but not themselves engaged in digging or reefing. QUEENSLAND.

144. The whole number returned under the mineral division of this class is more than double the number returned as thus engaged in the census enumeration of 1871; this was 6,630, the number for 1876 being 13,930, which is in the proportion of 8·04 per cent. of the whole population of the Colony. More than doubled in five years.

145. The sixth sub-division of this class, "Others," includes gold-buyers, pile-drivers, quarrymen, lime-burners, brickmakers, potters, goldsmiths, jewellers, ironfounders, smiths, gas-fitters, &c. Others.

146. The total number under the class, here termed "Industrial," is 28,177, of whom 1,735 are females and 26,442 are males, the whole constituting 16·26 per cent. of the entire population.

147. Class X.—*Labourers.*—Under this head are included, as hitherto, all such labourers as mechanics, manufacturers, shopmen, and women, apprentices, contractors, managers, and foremen, whose particular branch is not defined in the returns. Labourers.

148. This classification indicates a wide range from unskilled labourers upwards. Possibly the more severe descriptions of labour might with stricter propriety be thus classed, but, in fact, no apology is necessary for placing any class in such a category, as in this country, happily, the term labourer might include almost every resident exclusive of those who are too young or too old for work.

149. Of this class the number returned is 5,123, of whom there are 5,107 males and only 16 females.

150. Class XI.—*Public Burden.*—This is divided into four orders:— Public burden.

1. Pensioners, whether dependent on private or public funds.
2. Paupers, inmates of charitable institutions, public or private.
3. Lunatics, inmates as patients of asylums and reception houses.
4. Prisoners in gaols, penal establishments, reformatories, lock-ups, and those in charge of the police.

151. It is gratifying to see that though the population has increased by upwards of 53,000 persons, the number of paupers shows an actual decrease. In the census of 1871 it was returned as 744, in that of 1876 as 569, decrease 175. Paupers, decrease.

152. The number of lunatics has increased numerically by 141 persons, and centesimally 65·28, since the census enumeration of 1871, or from 0·18 to 0·20 of the population. Lunatics, increase.

153. The proportion of prisoners to the whole population shows a decrease, the centesimal rate in 1876 being 0·20 as against 0·22 in 1871. Prisoners, decrease.

154. The total number returned under the class public burden is 1,286, the number in 1871 having been 1,229.

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Proportion of males and females.

155. There are 871 males of this class, and 415 females. The whole number is in the proportion of 0·74 of the entire population. In 1871 it was 1·02 of the whole.

156. It must certainly be a matter of congratulation in Australia that, as compared with most other countries, we are so free from pauperism, and, consequently, from crime; and Queensland, happily, will compare favourable in this respect with the other Colonies.

Unspecified.

157. Class XII.—*Unspecified*—shows the number of persons whose occupation is not stated in the census schedules, as returned.

Increase or decrease in principal occupations.

158. The increase or decrease in the number of persons engaged in some of the more important professions and branches of industry in the five years from 1871 to 1876 may be thus summarised; the minus sign — being used to denote decrease :—

—	1871.	1876.	Increase or Decrease.
Government service - - -	2,069	3,104	1,035
Learned professions—			
Clergy - - - - -	163	258	95
Law - - - - -	131	171	40
Medicine - - - -	295	313	18
Pastoral, including employers and employed	11,360	10,506	−854
Agricultural, including employers and employed - - - - -	13,732	17,069	3,337
Mining—			
Gold - - - - -	6,139	12,541	6,402
Copper - - - -	369	396	27
Tin - - - - -	Nil	799	799
Coal - - - - -	122	194	72

159. Table 28 is an alphabetical index of occupations, which may be useful for reference, showing under what class and order and sub-order particular occupations have been placed.

Separate and Conjugal Condition.

Unmarried, married, and widowed.

160. This is not an uninteresting or unimportant part of the subject under consideration. The proportion of persons of all ages and both sexes already married, the number and proportion of the unmarried, and the number who are widowed, as well as the few whose condition was not stated, are shown in tables 29 to 40.

Comparison in the several census enumerations.

161. Table 29 exhibits a comparison of the number under these heads shown in the successive census enumerations, 1861, 1864, 1868, 1871, and 1876.

162. It will be seen that the number of unmarried persons in 1876 is 114,611; the married numbering 53,237. The proportion of married is very nearly the same as in the census enumerations of 1871, the centesimal rate being 30·73 in 1876, and 30·77 in 1871.

Unmarried.

163. The proportion of unmarried very nearly approximates in the two periods, the centesimal rate of unmarried to the whole population being 66·13 in 1876, and 65·74 in the former period of 1871.

164. The increased number of Chinese and Polynesians now in the Colony will be more than enough to account for this disadvantage in the latter as compared to the former period, this class having numbered 5,641 in 1871 are found to be nearly trebled in 1876, numbering 15,520, of whom 183 only are females.

Proportion of males and females.

165. Among the unmarried the proportion of males is greatly in excess; the males being 73,249, the females 41,362, showing an excess of males of 31,887.

166. The disproportion of the sexes obtains chiefly in the adult population. Summary table 31 shows that at 15 years of age the males and females are nearly equal; from 15 to 20 there is a considerable disproportion, approaching to half as many more males than females; from 20 to 21 there are about two and a half times, and from 21 to 25 nearly four times, as many males as females; and this disproportion continues to increase until at the period of age from 40 to 45 the number of single males is 30 times that of the single females, which is the highest difference shown.

Married.

More husbands than wives.

167. Of the married persons 28,520 are returned as males and 24,717 only as females, giving 3,803 husbands more than wives, and, of course, showing that there are this number of married men in the Colony without their wives. To a certain extent a difference of this kind might be expected in a country where the population is rapidly increasing from immigration, with, no doubt, a considerable number of men coming out as pioneers to make a home for their families.

More wives than husbands.

168. It appears that in England there are many more wives than husbands, a great number of those absent from their families being seafaring men.

Early marriages chiefly among females.

169. *Ages at Marriage* are seen in the same table 31. It shows that early marriages are chiefly among the females, and those under 15 years exclusively so; 15 females only being returned as married under that age. The disproportion continues great up to 21 years, and then diminishes, until at the period from 30 to 35 the number of males preponderates, and at the more advanced age periods is considerably in excess.

Widowed.

170. The number of widowers and of widows is 1,837 of the former to 2,152 of the latter. None are returned as widowed under 15 years of age.

Unspecified.

171. Among the unspecified the proportion of males is large, being 1,403 to 43 females, but the greater part of the unspecified are doubtless Chinese.

Numbers in every 100 living.

172. Table 32 shows the number of males and females, unmarried, married, and widowed, or whose condition is unspecified; and the number in every hundred living in each quinquennial

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period of age up to 60, and at each decennial period from 60 to 100.

Numbers in census districts.

173. Table 33 separates the numbers in each condition into those belonging to each census district, also divided into males and females.

Husbands. Wives. Unmarried males and females.

174. Husbands in each quinquennial and decennial period are given in the same way for each census district in table 34; wives in table 35, unmarried males in table 36, and unmarried females in table 37, with the totals under 21 and over 21 years in each case.

Widowed.

175. Tables 38 and 39 give widowers and widows, and table 40 persons whose condition is unspecified under the same arrangement.

Ages.

Numbers at age periods; proportion to total of all ages.

176. The tables under this division, 41 to 45, give the numbers at periods of ages, quinquennially and decennially, the proportion per cent. of each period to the total of all ages, the proportions of the sexes at each quinquennial age period up to 60 years, and decennially from 60 to 100 each for the census enumerations of 1871 and 1876; also, ages of males and females in each census district, minors and adults; and, finally, the sexes and ages of persons, minors and adults, enumerated in each sub-district in Queensland.

Sexes and ages of minors and adults in each sub-district.

177. In the detailed tables under this head, the numbers are given in five periods, from under one to under five years; thence in groups of five years to 60 years, and upwards in groups of 10 years.

Summary tables, ages.

178. In the three first, which are summary tables, the ages are grouped from 0 to 5, thence by periods of five years to 60, and thence in periods of 10 years to 100.

Children under 15, adults under and over 70.

179. It may be useful to divide the population by ages into three classes, thus—children under 15, adults over 15 and under 70, and adults over 70 years of age.

180. An examination of table 41 will show that the children in 1876 numbered 63,967, the adults under 70, 105,264, and the adults over 70, 704; the number of those whose ages are unspecified being 3,348.

181. The proportion of children is about 37·0 per cent. of the population, and that of adults under 70 a little over 60·0. The proportion of persons over 70 is ·04 per cent., and that of persons whose age is unspecified is about 2·0 per cent. of the total of persons enumerated.

Proportion of the sexes in every 100 of the population.

182. The following table will be useful, showing the proportion of the sexes in every 100 of the population in each quinquennial period of age up to 60 years, and decennially from 60 to 100, in the years 1871 and 1876 :—

PROPORTIONS of the SEXES at each QUINQUENNIAL AGE PERIOD up to 60 YEARS, and DECENNIALLY from 60 to 100, in the YEARS 1871 and 1876, showing PROPORTION of the SEXES in every 100 of the POPULATION at each QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD of AGE up to 60 YEARS, and DECENNIALLY from 60 to 100, in the YEARS 1871 and 1876.

Ages.	Proportion of the Sexes in every 100 Persons living at each Age Period.					
	1871.			1876.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
All ages -	100·00	59·76	40·24	100·00	60·59	39·41
0 to 5 years	100·00	51·20	48·80	100·00	50·40	49·60
5 „ 10 „	100·00	50·61	49·39	100·00	50·96	49·04
10 „ 15 „	100·00	51·56	48·44	100·00	50·69	49·31
15 „ 20 „	100·00	52·80	47·20	100·00	53·96	46·04
20 „ 25 „	100·00	57·33	42·67	100·00	62·89	37·11
25 „ 30 „	100·00	62·70	37·30	100·00	65·43	34·57
30 „ 35 „	100·00	68·53	31·47	100·00	67·57	32·43
35 „ 40 „	100·00	68·97	31·03	100·00	70·10	29·90
40 „ 45 „	100·00	70·12	29·88	100·00	70·95	29·05
45 „ 50 „	100·00	68·67	31·33	100·00	69·65	30·35
50 „ 55 „	100·00	68·08	31·92	100·00	67·83	32·17
55 „ 60 „	100·00	65·36	34·64	100·00	66·74	33·26
60 „ 70 „	100·00	67·33	32·67	100·00	64·00	36·00
70 „ 80 „	100·00	67·56	32·44	100·00	63·21	36·79
80 „ 90 „	100·00	62·50	37·50	100·00	65·00	35·00
90 „100 „	100·00	77·78	22·22	100·00	71·44	28·56
100 and over -	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unspecified -	100·00	96·88	3·12	100·00	96·15	3·85

Per-centage of male population in 1876.

183. Taking the sexes separately, it is seen that in 1876, the total number of males being 105,009, the number to 15 years was 32,409, or 30·8 per cent. of the males; the number of adults to 70 was 68,934, or 65·6 per cent.; and the number over 70 was 447, or 0·4 per cent. In 1871 the per-centage of the male population to 15 was 32·74, between 15 and 70, 64·12, and over 70, ·03.

In 1871.

Per-centage of female population, 1876.

184. The total number of females in 1876 being 68,274, it is seen that the number to 15 is 31,558, or 46·2 per cent. of the whole number of females; the number of adults under 70 is 36,330, or 53·2 per cent.; and the number of adults over 70 is 257, or 0·3 per cent. In 1871 the per-centage of females was 46·53 to

In 1871.

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15, 53·06 over 15 and under 70, and 0·2 over 70 years. This may be more plainly seen as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
1871.		
Proportion of children to 15 years - -	32·74	46·53
„ of adults under 70 years - -	64·12	53·06
„ over 70 years - - -	·03	·02
1876.		
Proportion of children to 15 years - -	30·8	46·2
„ of adults under 70 years - -	65·6	53·2
„ over 70 years - - -	·04	·03

Large proportion between 15 and 70 years of both sexes.

185. In both years there was a large proportion of males and females, especially of the former, between the ages of 15 and 70. In 1876 there was a smaller proportion of both males and females under 15 than in 1871, and a correspondingly larger number of the sexes together between 15 and 70 than in 1871.

Smaller proportion of children in 1876.

186. The proportion of children of both sexes to the whole population in the two last census enumerations is seen as follows :—

Proportion in 1871 and 1876.

1871 - - 38·29 | 1876 - - 36·91

Ages in census districts.

187. Table 44 shows the ages of males and females in each census district, divided into minors and adults, and the same arrangement is carried into the sub-divisions of the districts as seen in table 45, showing sexes and ages of persons in the sub-districts, minors and adults. These sub-divisions throughout the country having been made with great care, are intended as permanent bases for any divisions that may at any time be required; and though the electoral districts are at present different to the census and registry districts, should they at any future time be made to correspond there would be much labour saved in compiling the census returns, and this table, giving the population of the sub-divisions, would prove most convenient in showing at a glance in what portion of the district the population was principally settled.

In sub-districts.

Settlement in sub-districts.

188. The number of persons of 21 years and upwards is shown in the last or right-hand column of this table, opposite each sub-district, males and females. The total number of adults in the Colony is seen to be 91,970, or 53·0 per cent.; the total under 21 years is 81,313, or 47·0 per cent. of the whole population.

Total number of adults in the Colony.

189. The total number of males among the adult population is 62,892, or 36·3 per cent. of the whole population.

Males among adult population.

Education.

Returns showing condition of primary education.

190. The returns under this important head exhibit the condition of primary education in the Colony, showing the number able to read and write, those able to read only, and those unable to read. Persons having made no return as to their education are set down as unspecified. The information contained in the returns is confined almost exclusively to the degree of education as indicated merely by a capability to read and write; a good

number of persons are returned as members of universities, but beyond this no information is afforded. QUEENSLAND.

191. A comparison of the four grades is given in table 46, showing the numbers, male and female, for the years 1861, 1864, 1868, 1871, and 1876. Comparison in the several enumerations.

192. Table 47 shows the proportion per cent. which these bear to the total population in each census enumeration, divided into males and females.

193. A summary table, 48, shows the degree of education of males and females at different ages in Queensland in 1876. The degree of education, taking total of all ages, males and females, taken from this table, shown numerically, is seen as follows:— Degree of education.

—	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Read and write - - -	110,726	68,489	42,237
Read only - - -	13,819	6,819	7,000
Cannot read - - -	46,393	27,980	18,413
Unspecified - - -	2,345	1,721	624

194. Table 49 shows the number and proportion per cent., males and females, who can read and write, those who can read only, those unable to read, and those whose degree of instruction is unspecified, in each census district. Read and write. Read only. Cannot read, &c.

195. The number at different ages able to read and write in each census district is shown in table 50; the number of those able to read only is seen in table 51, the number unable to read in table 52, and the number whose degree of instruction is unspecified in table 53. Tables.

196. Table 54 shows the general condition of education in census districts by age periods, from 5 to 10, from 10 to 15, and and from 15 years and upwards. Education in census districts.

197. The proportion per cent. of persons able to read and write, males and females, is readily seen as follows:— In age periods. Read and write.

	Males.	Females.
In the age period from 5 to 10	40·88	41·89
„ „ 10 to 15	83·17	86·09
„ „ 15 and upwards	78·81	84·41

The proportion per cent. of those returned as to able to read only is— Read only.

	Males.	Females.
In the age period from 5 to 10	26·80	26·39
„ „ 10 to 15	8·38	8·22
„ „ 15 and upwards	3·76	8·31

Those who cannot read are returned in the following proportions— Cannot read.

	Males.	Females.
In the age period from 5 to 10	30·48	29·49
„ „ 10 to 15	7·64	5·10
„ „ 15 and upwards	15·49	6·38

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Per-centage.

198. It will be seen that from the ages 5 to 10 more than 40 per cent. of both sexes can both read and write; from the ages of 10 to 15 this proportion is largely increased, averaging between the two sexes nearly 85 per cent.

Too many unable to read.

199. The proportion unable to read or write between the ages of 5 and 10 is too large, showing an average between the two sexes of 29 per cent. It may be presumed that the free and compulsory system of education now in operation will effect an improvement in this respect to be shown in the next census enumeration.

Progress in primary education during five years.

200. The progress made in primary education since the last census enumeration is shown numerically by the following table :—

Degree of Education.	1871.			1876.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Read and write - -	74,255	47,182	27,073	110,726	68,489	42,237
Read only - -	11,970	5,691	6,279	13,819	6,819	7,000
Cannot read - -	32,781	18,031	14,750	46,393	27,980	18,413
Unspecified - -	1,098	863	235	2,345	1,721	624

Centesimally.

201. Centesimally, the comparison between the periods of 1871 and 1876 may be thus plainly seen :—

Degree of Education.	1871.			1876.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Read and write - -	61·83	65·74	56·01	63·90	65·23	61·87
Read only - -	9·97	7·93	12·99	7·98	6·49	10·25
Cannot read - -	27·29	25·13	30·52	26·77	26·64	26·97
Unspecified - -	0·91	1·20	0·48	1·35	1·64	0·91

Comparison by age periods.

202. A comparison of the proportions per cent. under the three grades, omitting the unspecified, at the three age periods for the two census enumerations of 1871 and 1876, is seen as follows :—

Degree of Education.	Periods of Age.	1871.		1876.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Read and write -	5 to 10 - -	32·14	32·05	40·88	41·89
	10 to 15 - -	76·19	79·24	83·	86·09
	15 and upwards -	84·47	80·56	78·81	84·41
Read only - -	5 to 10 - -	31·18	32·91	26·80	26·39
	10 to 15 - -	13·66	13·57	8·38	8·22
	15 and upwards -	5·01	11·52	3·76	8·31
Cannot read -	5 to 10 - -	36·11	34·32	30·48	29·49
	10 to 15 - -	9·69	6·69	7·64	5·10
	15 and upwards -	8·87	7·31	15·49	6·38

Progress of education among younger population.

203. It will be seen that among the young, or up to 15 years, the proportion of both sexes who can read and write is considerably increased since 1871; while the proportion returned as unable to read shows, of course, a proportionate decrease.

In census districts.

204. Looking at the figures in table 54, showing general state of education centesimally arranged in census districts, it will be observed that there are considerable differences, the rate, for instance, in males able to read and write varying from 36·40 to 89·30; but it should be borne in mind that the fewness of total numbers in some of the districts renders them an unsafe guide in a centesimal arrangement of figures.

District of Cook.

205. The district of Cook shows well in the comparison of this table, for though a large proportion of the population there, as before shown, are Chinese, it is found that a large number of these persons can both read and write their own language.

District of Brisbane.

206. In Brisbane, as might have been expected, from the facilities of obtaining instruction in the primary schools, the figures in this table show higher than in any other of the populous districts.

Religion.

Religion.

207. The numbers of persons, males and females, of different religious denominations, at the successive census periods of 1861, 1864, 1868, 1871, and 1876, are shown in table 55; also, the numerical and proportionate increase or decrease in the interval of each census period.

Proportion per cent. of denominations.

208. Table 56 shows the proportion per cent. which the numbers of each denomination were found to bear to total population at the several census enumerations.

1876.

209. The population by denominations, as returned under the head of religion in 1876, is thus divided, taking them in the order of numbers:—

Church of England	61,962	Religion not stated	5,936
Roman Catholic	43,147	Baptist	4,344
Presbyterian	18,947	Congregationalist and Independent	3,560
Lutheran	12,174	Other religions	1,674
Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist	11,065	Hebrew	427
Mahommedan and Pagan	10,047		

Per cent.

210. The proportion per cent. under these descriptions of the whole population is as follows:—

Church of England	35·75	Religion not stated	3·43
Roman Catholic	24·90	Baptist	2·51
Presbyterian	10·93	Congregationalist and Independent	2·05
Lutheran	7·03	Other religions	0·97
Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist	6·38	Hebrew	0·25
Mahommedan and Pagan	5·80		

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Centesimal increase.

211. The centesimal increase of each is seen as follows:—

—	1861–4.	1864–8.	1868–71.	1871–6.
Church of England - -	91·44	45·83	16·83	41·58
Roman Catholic - - -	109·86	64·38	20·16	35·59
Presbyterian - - -	125·86	58·68	15·92	23·25
Lutheran - - - -	—	—	35·41	33·52
Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist	116·66	67·35	38·50	53·55
Mahommedan and Pagan - -	17·53	426·89	27·11	215·15
Religion not stated - -	103·51	242·39	23·84	119·77
Baptist - - - -	—	—	38·74	49·95
Congregationalist and Independent	116·71	41·06	23·69	34·49
Other religions - - -	129·34	−63·30*	−18·16	2·89
Hebrew - - - -	214·29	59·09	18·78	46·74

Order of increase.

212. The several divisions in the order of their largest increase is seen as under, the increase being shown centesimally:—

	Centesimal Increase from 1861 to 1876.
Mahommedan and Pagan - -	2380·74
Religion not stated - -	1796·48
Hebrew - - - -	771·4
Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist	671·08
Roman Catholic - - -	462·1
Presbyterian - - -	412·08
Congregationalist and Independent	408·57
Church of England - -	361·7
Baptist * - - - -	108·04
Lutheran * - - -	91·9
Other religions † - - -	−29·12

Comparison of increase.

213. It is seen from the above table, showing centesimal rates from the returns made, which are doubtless approximately correct, that the largest proportionate increase since a census was first taken in Queensland has been of the Hebrew Church, but the aggregate numbers of this Church are too small to be of much value in showing increase centesimally. The next in the rate per cent. of increase are Wesleyans in their two sections as returned, then Roman Catholics, then Presbyterians; after these Congregationalists or Independents; following these members of the Church of England.

No returns from Baptist and Lutheran Churches till 1868.

214. The members of the Baptist and Lutheran Churches appear to have made no return until 1868; a comparison can therefore only be made from that period, and it appears probable that their numbers are not even now fully returned. It is observable that although the figures under "other denominations" (see footnote, table 57) are lower than in 1861, showing a decrease of 29·12, yet that under the head "religion not stated" the increase is much larger than that connected with any of the denominations, from which it may be fairly presumed that an

Increasing number indisposed to make return.

* The centesimal rate of increase here given is since the census enumeration of 1868, no returns having been previously received.

† The minus sign − shows decrease.

increasing proportion of persons are indisposed to make any return under the head of religion. It should, however, be observed that the whole number thus practically objecting in the census of 1876 are only 3·43 per cent. of the whole population. Aggregate few.

215. Table 57 shows religion by denominations in the census districts, males and females, minors and adults. Census districts.

Birthplaces.

216. Table 58 shows the number of persons, males and females, of different nationalities, living in Queensland at the census enumerations of 1861, 1864, 1868, 1871, and 1876; also, the numerical and centesimal increase or decrease during the intervals. Nationalities.

217. Table 59 exhibits the proportion of each nationality, males and females, to the entire population of the Colony at the different census enumerations. Nationalities at each census enumeration.

218. It will be seen that in 1861 by far the largest proportion of the population were born in England and Wales; these show 28·85 of the whole, the proportion of Queensland-born at that time being 20·64. In 1876 the proportion born in Queensland had greatly out-numbered those born in England and the principality of Wales, showing 33·92 of the former to 20·89 of the latter. Large proportion born in England and Wales, first census. 1876 larger proportion in Queensland.

219. Persons born in the other Australian Colonies, including New Zealand and Tasmania, were in larger proportions in 1861 than in 1876; the per-centage being 12·01 in the former period, and 7·00 in the latter. Other Australian Colonies.

220. The numbers returned in 1876 as born in Queensland are 58,773. The next in order are those born in England and Wales, counting 36,203, being 22,560 males, and 13,643 females. Then follow those born in Ireland, numbering 24,883, or 13,603 males and 11,280 females. Other Australian Colonies come next, numbering 12,133, the males 7,184, the females 4,949. Queensland 1876. England and Wales. Ireland. Other Australian Colonies.

221. Chinese, including Japanese, are returned as 10,412, of whom 10,399 are males and 13 are females. Chinese.

222. The German nationality shows 9,889, or 6,064 males and 3,825 females. Those born in Scotland number 9,374, being 5,866 males and 3,508 females. Germany. Scotland.

223. Polynesians number 5,108, of whom 4,938 are males and 170 females. The next in order come persons born in European States not British; these number 3,682, of whom 2,601 are males and 1,081 are females.

224. The number born in the United States of America is returned as 394, or 320 males and 74 females. The British North American-born are 354, of whom 265 are males and 89 females. United States of America.

225. The returns show 370 as born in India, 292 in France, 157 in other American States, 87 in Africa, 545 in other countries, and 627 unspecified. India.

226. It will be observed that of the Queensland-born the sexes are nearly equal, showing 29,643 males and 29,130 females. Sexes.

227. Of those born in other Australian Colonies there are 7,184 males, and 4,949 females. The disproportion of the sexes is larger

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among those born in other countries, as in England and Wales, 22,560 males to 13,643 females; Germany, 6,064 males, 3,825 females; Scotland, 5,866 males, 3,508 females.

228. Table 60 shows birth-places of the population of each census district, divided into males and females, minors and adults.

Sickness and Infirmity.

Sickness and infirmity.

229. The number of persons returned as suffering from sickness and accident is seen in table 61. The total number, including private houses and hospitals, is 864; from sickness 814, from accident 50.

230. The number returned in the schedules cannot, of course, include all persons in the Colony affected by illness of every description, but may be understood as indicating the more serious cases of sickness and accident.

231. Table 62 shows the number of persons in hospitals, asylums, prisons, and immigration barracks. The number of these public institutions in Queensland is 50, viz., hospitals, 21; lunatic reception-houses, 3; prisons, including reformatories, 15; orphan and benevolent asylums, 7; and immigration barracks, 4.

Number in hospitals.

232. The total number of persons in these institutions, including officers and their families, is 2,136, the officers and their families numbering 426, the number of special inmates as patients being 1,710, of whom 1,219 are males, and 491 females.

Public institutions.

233. The table also shows the name of each of the institutions, the locality in which it is situated, and the census district to which it belongs, detailing the number of persons, males and females, attached to each.

234. Immediately following this report is a synoptical table containing particulars in a condensed form for the convenience of easy reference, of the census enumerations of 1861, 1864, 1868, 1871, and 1876.

235. The figures for each of the five census periods are given in the synopsis showing the total population, males and females, the number and description of dwellings, the number engaged in various occupations under the 12 principal classes, the ages at quinquennial and decennial periods, the state of primary education, the number of persons, males and females, as returned under various religious denominations, the birthplaces, the number of persons returned as suffering from sickness and accidents, and the number in public institutions as patients and inmates.

236. In conclusion, it may be proper to say, this report would have been published earlier, but for the indisposition of several of the officers connected with this department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY JORDAN,
Registrar-General.

Registrar-General's Office,
11th March 1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 20.

STATISTICS of NEW ZEALAND, 1876.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
October 26, 1877.

SIR,

IN submitting the volume of statistics for 1876 I have the honour to inform you that great difficulty has been experienced this year in obtaining financial returns from some of the late provincial auditors; there has thus occurred a delay in the completion of this volume. I understand, however, that, in consequence of the operation of "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875," it has been found possible to keep the accounts in the Colonial Treasury in such a form that in future the requisite information will be available within a short period of the termination of each year. The parts of the volume up to and including that part relating to trade and interchange were forwarded to the members of the General Assembly early in the session.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

This part, necessarily to a large extent a reprint of what has appeared in previous volumes, includes the changes in 1876, so as to complete the historical record to the end of that year.

PART II.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population, exclusive of the Maoris, on the 31st December 1876 was 399,075, an increase on the estimated population of the 31st December 1875 of 23,219, or an increase at the rate of 6·2 per cent. for the 12 months. This is a much lower rate of increase than that in either of the two previous years, consequent upon a much diminished immigration.

The natural increase of the population during the year, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 11,264, or 2,538 more than the similar increase in 1875; the increase in 1875 having been largely affected by an unusually high death-rate, which did not obtain in 1876.

The increase during the year, by excess of immigration over emigration, amounted to 11,955, less by 13,315 than the similar increase in 1875.

Immigration.—The total immigration to New Zealand in 1876 amounted to 18,414 persons, of whom 11,524 were males and 6,890 were females. Of the males 9,577 were adults (or over 12 years of age) and 1,947 were children. Of the females, 5,152 were adults and 1,738 children. Of these, the number whose passages were paid at the public expense amounted to 9,677,

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being a reduction in the number of free immigrants, as compared with 1875, of 10,693. The immigrants unassisted numbered 8,737, of whom 2,890 were from the United Kingdom, 4,956 from the Australian Colonies, and 891 from other places.

Emigration.—The emigration during the year amounted to 6,459 persons, of whom 4,256 went to the Australian Colonies, 1,110 to the United Kingdom, and 1,093 to other places. There was thus, so far as regards unassisted immigration, an excess of immigration over emigration of 700 persons from the Australian Colonies and 1,780 persons from the United Kingdom, and an excess of emigration over immigration of 202 persons to other places.

Aliens Naturalized.—The total number of aliens naturalized in 1876 amounted to 150. Of these, 66 were natives of German States and Austria, and 60 were Scandinavians, *i.e.*, Swedes, Norwegians, or Danes. During the three years 1874, 1875, 1876, the number of aliens introduced as free immigrants amounted to 5,179; during the same period 367 aliens have been naturalized.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—As the Registration of Births and Deaths Act of 1875, which provided that the particulars to be registered should be much fuller than was previously required, thus rendering the identification of the person whose birth or death was registered more complete, came into operation on the 1st January 1876, the result of its operation, as exhibited by the first year's registrations, has been somewhat anxiously observed. This result may be considered as satisfactory, as the births registered have not only increased in numbers—a natural consequence of the increase of population—but the proportion of births registered to the population was higher last year than in any previous year since 1870. The children born alive and registered in 1876 amounted to 16,168, an increase on the births in 1875 of 1,730. The births in 1876 were at the rate of 41·73 per 1,000 of the population, the rates in 1875 and 1874 having been respectively 40·23 and 40·05.

It is somewhat remarkable that in the case of one birth, the mother (an Irishwoman) was stated to be 65 years of age. The correctness of the age stated was confirmed on inquiry.

Sex.—Of the children born alive, 8,320 were males and 7,848 were females, being at the rate of 106 males to every 100 females. The proportion in 1875 was 107·8 males to every 100 females. In England the proportion is 104 males to every 100 females.

Illegitimate Births.—The number of births registered as illegitimate in 1876 was 361, or equivalent to 2·23 per cent. of the births registered. The apparent increase on the number of illegitimate births in 1875 is considerable, the numbers then having been 197, or 1·36 of the births registered. This apparent increase is, however, doubtless largely due to the operation of the

new Registration Act already referred to, as on registration of a birth the date and place of marriage of the parents have to be entered, and this, therefore, to a large extent prevents the mother of an illegitimate child, by assuming the name of the father of the child, from registering the birth as if legitimate. The rate above given, 2·23 per cent., is low compared with the English rate, which was 5 per cent. in 1874.

Marriages.—The number of marriages in 1876 was 3,196, an actual decrease on the marriages in 1875 of 13 in number, notwithstanding that the population at the close of the year was, by 23,219 persons, or 6·20 per cent., greater than that at the close of the previous year. The number of persons married in 1876 was at the rate of 16·50 per 1,000 of the population against a rate of 17·88 per 1,000 in 1875. Although the marriage-rate was less in 1876 than in 1874 and 1875, it was still higher than in the preceding years between 1869 and 1874. If the state of trade and national industry be tested by the fluctuations in the marriage-rate, it would appear that there was a greater general degree of prosperity in 1874 and 1875 than in 1876. The English rate for 1874 was 17·1; but, while in England the female population is in excess of the male population, in New Zealand there are not quite 77 females to every 100 males.

Forms of Marriage.—Of the marriages in 1876, 919 were performed by Presbyterian ministers, 733 by Church of England ministers, 403 by ministers of the Roman Catholic Church, 321 by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, 286 by ministers of other denominations, and 534 by registrars. The increase in the number of marriages performed by registrars is very great. In 1873 they amounted to 211, or 9·3 per cent. of the total number of marriages; in 1874, to 291, or 10·3 per cent.; in 1875, to 336, or 10·5 per cent.; but in 1876, to 534, or 16·7 per cent. This increase is, no doubt, partly attributable to the reduction of the marriage fee payable to registrars from 3*l.* to 1*l.*, in terms of "The Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1875."

Signature of Marriage Registers.—Of the 3,196 men who were married in 1876, 123, or 3·8 per cent., signed with marks, the rate in 1875 having been 4·08. The number of women signing by mark in 1876 was 297, or 9·29 per cent., against 9·19 per cent. in 1875.

Ages of Persons Married.—Of the 3,196 women who married in 1876, 930, or 29 per cent. of the total number, were under 21 years of age. Of these, 2 had not reached the age of 15, and 13 were between 15 and 16; 1,217 women married at the ages 21–25, and 633 at the ages 25–30. One woman of 60 years of age (the bridegroom being over 65 years of age) entered the marriage state. Of the men married, 58, or 1·81 per cent., were under 21 years of age, of whom one was under 17 years of age.

The following are the proportionate numbers of men and women married at each of the under-mentioned age periods in every 100 marriages:—

Ages.	Men.	Women.
Under 21 -	1·81	29·08
21–25 - -	25·68	38·13
25–30 - -	29·91	19·83
30–40 - -	33·65	10·05
40–50 - -	6·98	2·19
50–60 - -	1·41	0·69
60–70 - -	0·56	0·03 (1 marriage).

Deaths.—The deaths registered in 1876 amounted to 4,904, a decrease on the numbers in 1875 of 808, the death-rate having fallen from 15·92 per 1,000 of the population in 1875 to 12·66 in 1876. Of the deaths in 1876, 2,296, or 46·82 per cent. of the whole number, were of children under 5 years of age, the proportions having been 48·62 in 1875 and 49·96 in 1874.

The following table shows the proportions that the deaths of children under 5 years bear to every 100 deaths in each of the provincial districts, and also the proportion of children under 5 years to each 100 of the population living at the time of the census of March 1874:—

	Deaths under 5 Years per 100.			Proportion of Living Children under 5 to the 100 of Population. Census of 1874.
	1874.	1875.	1876.	
Auckland - -	47·12	51·04	45·48	17·38
Taranaki - -	46·38	44·00	50·55	17·18
Hawke's Bay -	62·57	51·64	50·00	17·21
Wellington -	52·21	49·13	49·24	17·58
Marlborough -	34·61	57·14	37·35	17·93
Nelson - -	41·30	39·71	32·97	15·65
Westland - -	44·10	50·00	41·56	17·01
Canterbury -	55·89	53·56	54·22	18·26
Otago - -	46·76	42·78	44·54	17·15
The Colony -	49·96	48·62	46·82	17·36

The deaths of children under 1 year amounted in 1876 to 1,673, or 10·35 per cent. of the births. The proportions in 1874 and 1875 were respectively 10·85 and 12·58.

The deaths under 1 year to every 100 births in some of the principal boroughs were:—

	Deaths under 1 Year.		
	1874.	1875.	1876.
Auckland - -	13·8	21·6	15·2
Thames - - -	12·8	21·3	6·5
Wellington - -	19·3	15·8	15·2
Nelson - - -	5·8	18·0	10·3
Christchurch - -	18·1	18·4	19·3
Dunedin - - -	12·6	13·4	10·9
Hokitika - - -	17·1	16·7	16·1

In some of these boroughs, more especially in Christchurch, the rate of infantile mortality is much in excess of the average rate for the Colony.

Sexes of Deceased Persons.—Of the deaths, 2,881 were of males and 2,023 of females, which, upon the estimated mean number of each sex living during the year, amounts to 13·13 per 1,000 of the male population and 12·04 per 1,000 of the female population, or, in equal numbers living, 109 males died to every 100 females.

Causes of Death.—The following table gives the classification of diseases which have terminated fatally, with the per-centage of each class and order of disease to the total mortality in 1875 and 1876 :—

—	1875.	1876.
CLASS. I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		
Order 1. Miasmatic diseases	26·84	23·43
„ 2. Enthetic „	0·28	0·23
„ 3. Dietic „	2·05	2·18
„ 4. Parasitic „	0·87	0·71
	30·04	26·55
CLASS II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Diathetic diseases	2·38	3·24
„ 2. Tubercular „	9·82	9·95
	12·20	13·19
CLASS III.—LOCAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Nervous diseases	9·61	9·40
„ 2. Circulation, diseases of	4·83	5·26
„ 3. Respiratory organs, diseases of	12·87	9·99
„ 4. Digestive organs „	6·21	7·04
„ 5. Urinary organs „	1·09	1·24
„ 6. Generative organs „	0·12	0·20
„ 7. Locomotive organs „	0·12	0·18
„ 8. Integumentary system „	0·25	0·63
	35·10	33·94
CLASS IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Children, diseases of	4·76	6·73
„ 2. Adults „	1·21	1·33
„ 3. Old people „	1·32	1·49
„ 4. Nutrition „	6·16	5·63
	13·45	15·18
CLASS V.—VIOLENCE.		
Order 1. Accident or negligence	6·86	8·32
„ 3. Homicide	0·26	0·25
„ 4. Suicide	0·51	0·86
„ 5. Execution	0·02	—
Violent deaths not classed	0·18	—
	7·83	9·43
Causes of death not specified	1·38	1·71

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Zymotic and local diseases were proportionately less fatal, and constitutional and developmental diseases more fatal, than in 1875. Violent deaths were also proportionately more numerous.

Zymotic Diseases.—The principal decrease of this class is in deaths from miasmatic diseases. Measles, which caused 289 deaths in 1875, only caused 2 deaths in 1876, but the deaths from scarlet fever increased from 36 in 1875 to 136 in 1876. Of these 136 deaths, 79, or 58 per cent., occurred in the Provincial District of Otago, 51 having occurred in Dunedin. The mortality was chiefly confined to children, only 3 of the deaths having been of persons over 20 years of age, the majority of the children (116) having been under 10. The deaths from diphtheria were fewer in 1876 than in any of the three previous years, the numbers having been 128 in 1873, 187 in 1874, 106 in 1875, and 77 in 1876. While in the three previous years a large proportion of these deaths occurred in Canterbury, in 1876 of the total number of such deaths (77) only 11 occurred in Canterbury, while 26 occurred in Auckland and 24 in Wellington. 29 deaths were attributed to alcoholism, 19 of which were of males and 10 of females. Deaths from this cause were not, however, so numerous as in 1875, when they amounted to 47, 39 of males and 8 of females.

Constitutional Diseases.—There was in 1876 a marked increase in the deaths from cancer. In 1875 such deaths amounted to 71, or 1·24 per cent.; in 1876, to 105, or 2·14 per cent. The increased number of deaths was chiefly of females, the female deaths from that cause having been 34 in 1875, and 66 in 1876. These deaths were chiefly of persons over 40 years of age. In only two cases were the deceased under 20 years of age, one having been between 4 and 5.

Local Diseases.—Of the total deaths, 1,665, or 33·94 per cent., were from local diseases. The deaths from diseases of the organs of circulation (heart disease, &c.) were less numerous than in 1875, although the proportion to the total mortality is greater; but in 1875 the total mortality from all causes was much greater than in 1876. The proportion of such deaths in 1876 (5·26 per cent.) was below the rate (5·65) in England in 1874. Diseases of the respiratory organs only caused 490 deaths in 1876, against 735 in 1875. Of these, the deaths from bronchitis were 210 in 1876, against 325 in 1875; and from pneumonia they were 187 in 1876, and 277 in 1875.

Developmental Diseases.—The deaths from premature births amounted to 161, and from teething to 108. 73 persons died of old age, of whom 32 were upwards of 80 years of age. 276 deaths (chiefly of infants under 1 year) were from atrophy and debility. Among the deaths from these diseases are included 52 deaths from child-birth; but as 22 females died from puerperal fever, the number of deaths properly attributable to that cause may be estimated at 74.

Violent Deaths.—388 males and 74 females died violent deaths

in 1876. Of these, 157 males and 28 females were accidentally drowned, and 39 males and 3 females committed suicide.

Hospitals.—There were, in 1876, 24 hospitals in the Colony, into which 3,373 males and 973 females were admitted. During the year 368 males and 71 females died therein, and 3,024 males and 877 females were discharged therefrom. The total number of inmates relieved amounted to 4,934, including 588 inmates of the hospitals at the commencement of the year. 7,478 out-door patients were relieved. There was provision in the hospitals for 719 males and 223 females, or a total of 942 beds. The aggregate number of cubic feet in the sleeping wards amounted to 910,919 feet, or an average of 967 cubic feet to every bed.

Lunatic Asylums.—There are 8 lunatic asylums in the Colony, which contained, at the end of the year 1876, 785 patients, viz., 519 males and 266 females. Of these, 129 males and 74 females were supposed to be curable, and 390 males and 192 females supposed to be incurable. 225 males and 120 females were admitted during the year. 704 males and 371 females, or a total of 1,075 persons, were treated as inmates of these asylums during the year. The asylums in the aggregate afford accommodation for 533 males and 298 females, or a total of 831. The number of cubic feet in the sleeping wards amounted to 685,803, or an average of 825 cubic feet for each patient, rather more than equal to a room of 9 feet cubic measurement.

Industrial and Reformatory Schools.—There are 3 of these schools in the Colony; 1 at Auckland; 1 at Burnham, near Christchurch; and 1 at Caversham, near Dunedin. On the 31st December 1876 they contained 371 children, 222 boys and 149 girls. 99 boys and 71 girls were admitted, and 51 boys and 56 girls left, during the year.

Of the total numbers in the schools at the end of the year, 188 had been committed for begging, or not having visible means of subsistence; 85 for residing in a brothel, or with bad characters; 40 for having committed a punishable offence; and 58 for other causes.

PART III.—TRADE AND INTERCHANGE.

Shipping.—The total shipping inwards at the various ports of the Colony was 878 vessels of 393,180 tons, being a decrease as compared with 1875 of 48 in the number of vessels, and 23,547 in the tonnage. Of the shipping inwards, 132 vessels of 122,371 tonnage arrived from the United Kingdom; 588 vessels of 199,540 tonnage from the Australian Colonies; 87 vessels of 46,007 tonnage from the islands in the Pacific (including 30 vessels of 34,808 tonnage from Fiji, of which 8 vessels of 22,752 tonnage were American mail steamers); 18 vessels of 7,412 tonnage from the United States of America; 1 vessel of 249 tons from British Columbia; 5 vessels of 4,630 tonnage from European Continental States; 4 vessels of 1,172 tonnage from China; 2 vessels of 819 tonnage from India; 17 vessels of 4,491 tonnage from the

NEW ZEALAND. Mauritius; and 24 vessels of 6,489 tonnage from the whale fisheries.

The total shipping outwards was 866 vessels of 393,334 tonnage, being a decrease as compared with 1875 of 74 in the number of the vessels, and 24,486 in the tonnage. Of the shipping outwards, 62 vessels of 59,833 tonnage cleared for the United Kingdom; 604 vessels of 231,024 tonnage cleared for the Australian Colonies; 101 vessels of 42,288 tonnage for the Pacific Islands (of which 35 vessels of 35,804 tonnage, including 8 mail steamers for San Francisco, were for Fiji); 6 vessels of 6,610 tonnage for India; 27 vessels of 22,295 tonnage for the United States; 9 vessels of 7,816 tonnage for South American ports; 5 vessels of 1,552 tonnage for China; 29 vessels of 13,307 tonnage for Guam; 5 vessels of 3,458 tonnage for other ports; and 18 vessels of 5,151 tonnage for the whale fisheries.

Registered Vessels.—The number of registered vessels belonging to ports in New Zealand on the 31st December 1876 amounted to 538 of 44,401 tonnage, viz., 442 sailing vessels of 34,060 tonnage, and 96 steamers of 10,341 tonnage; against 425 sailing vessels of 34,403 tonnage, and 77 steam vessels of 7,622 tonnage, on the 31st December 1875.

The amount of tonnage belonging to each port was as follows: Auckland, 15,379; Napier, 552; Wellington, 8,023; Nelson, 1,087; Lyttelton, 6,160; Dunedin, 12,003; and Invercargill, 1,197.

Imports.—The total value of the imports in 1876 was 6,905,171*l.*, against 8,029,172*l.* in 1875, being a decrease of 1,124,001*l.* The imports under the headings apparel and slops, cottons, drapery, haberdashery, millinery, silks, woollens, and blankets decreased to the extent of 524,513*l.*; those under the headings hardware and ironmongery iron (bar, rod, castings, fencing and galvanized), to the extent of 150,277*l.*; bridge materials, railway materials, and telegraph materials to the extent of 155,708*l.*; specie to the extent of 159,525*l.*; and tea to the extent of 69,773*l.*

It is noticeable that while the total value of the imports has decreased to the extent of 14 per cent., or about one-seventh on the value in 1875, the value of the beer and spirits imported has increased 10 per cent. on the value of similar imports in 1875.

The following figures show the decrease in the total imports in each provincial district in 1876, as compared with 1875:—

Auckland	-	£319,101 or 20·08 per cent.
Taranaki	-	3,906 or 15·30 „
Hawke's Bay	-	11,858 or 6·80 „
Wellington	-	71,600 or 5·58 „
Marlborough	-	4,928 or 36·81 „
Nelson	-	12,732 or 3·73 „
Westland	-	1,545 or ·59 „
Canterbury	-	23,151 or 1·78 „
Otago	-	675,180 or 22·23 „

A comparison of the total value of imports in 1875 and 1876, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

—	1875.	1876.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	5,103,610	4,451,269	652,341
British Colonies - -	2,504,325	2,146,755	357,570
Foreign States - -	421,237	307,147	114,090

The chief increases or decreases in the values of imports from the British Possessions were as follow:—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
New South Wales - - -	67,460	—
Victoria - - - -	—	408,336
South Australia - - -	—	12,357
Western Australia - - -	—	14,301
Tasmania - - - -	—	45,060
Mauritius - - - -	47,535	—
India - - - - -	25,742	—

The chief increases or decreases in the imports from foreign states were—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
United States - - - -	—	21,205
South America, Peru (2*l.* in 1876) -	—	5,998
China - - - - -	—	91,023
France - - - - -	10,294	—
Germany - - - -	—	810
Holland - - - -	2,130	(Nil in 1875)
Pacific Islands (not British) - -	—	14,631

Exports.—The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1876 (excluding the value of imported goods exported from the Colony) was 5,488,901*l.*, against a similar total in 1875 of 5,475,844*l.*, being an increase of 13,057*l.*

Gold Exported.—The total value of gold exported from New Zealand in 1876 was 1,268,559*l.*, against 1,407,770*l.* in 1875, showing a decrease of 139,211*l.* Gold to the value of 24,512*l.* was exported to China. The amount of gold entered for duty on exportation (page 154) during the year amounted to 1,284,328*l.*, being in excess of the amount exported by 15,769*l.*

The following table shows the increase or decrease of the amounts entered for exportation in each provincial district:—

NEW ZEALAND. VALUE of GOLD entered for Duty on Exportation in 1875 and 1876 respectively.

—	1875.	1876.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Produce of the gold fields in provincial district of Auckland - - - - -	262,156	221,905	40,251
Produce of the gold fields in provincial district of Marlborough - - - -	4,636	1,796	2,840
Produce of the gold fields in provincial district of Nelson - - - - -	370,865	365,217	5,648
Produce of the gold fields in provincial district of Westland - - - - -	282,481	221,919	60,562
Produce of the gold fields in provincial district of Otago - - - - -	487,632	473,491	14,141
Total - - - -	1,407,770	1,284,328	123,442

The total amount of gold entered for duty on exportation from New Zealand to the 31st December 1876 amounted to 8,277,311 ounces; the total value to 32,269,114*l.*

Wool Exported.—The total quantity of wool exported in 1876 amounted to 59,853,454 lbs. of the declared value of 3,395,816*l.*, against 54,401,540 lbs. of the declared value of 3,398,155*l.* exported in 1875; an increase of 5,451,914 lbs. in quantity, but a decrease in the declared value of 2,339*l.* The wool exported during the year ending the 30th September 1876, as more accurately representing the clip for one season, amounted to 55,975,177 lbs. The exports for the last five years, ending respectively on the 30th September, were as follow:—

Year ending 30th September.	Wool Exported. lbs.
1872 - - -	40,376,539
1873 - - -	43,233,470
1874 - - -	47,424,882
1875 - - -	49,942,148
1876 - - -	55,975,177

The actual production of wool for the year ending the 30th September 1876 was 6,033,029 lbs. more than in the previous year, the production having in four years increased by 15,598,638 lbs., or 38·6 per cent.

Value of Exports to Different Countries.—Of the exports, the produce of the Colony, to different countries, those from Lyttelton were greatest in value, amounting to 1,727,107*l.* Dunedin, from having the largest exports in previous years, ranked in 1876 next to Lyttelton, the exports having been of the value of 1,495,772*l.* Wellington ranked next, with exports of the value of 694,133*l.* The exports from Auckland amounted to 583,766*l.* Of the total exports, those to the United Kingdom amounted to 4,533,389*l.*; those to Victoria amounted to 651,381*l.*, including gold to the value of 470,262*l.* New South Wales received exports of the value of 219,485*l.*, of which the gold amounted to

80,794*l.* South Australia received exports to the extent of 66,757*l.*, and the exports to the United States amounted to the value of 68,831*l.* The exports to the islands in the Pacific and Southern Whale Fishery amounted to the value of 90,147*l.*

Principal Articles Exported.—Of the principal articles exported the pastoral interests yielded exports of the value of 3,561,362*l.*, against 3,537,438*l.* in 1875 ; the mining interests yielded exports of the value of 1,273,724*l.*, against 1,418,468*l.* in 1875, a decrease to the extent of 144,744*l.*, of which the decrease in the gold export amounted to 139,171*l.* Agriculturists supplied exports of the value of 366,426*l.*, an increase on these exports in 1875 to the extent of 117,697*l.* The dairy and preserved meat exports amounted in value to 32,948*l.*, against 14,211*l.* in 1875. The natural products of the soil, with or without labour expended on them, yielded exports to the value of 178,795*l.*

Value of Total Trade.—The total trade of the Colony as represented by imports and exports amounted in 1876 to 12,578,636*l.*, or 32*l.* 9*s.* 3¼*d.* per head of the mean population, excluding the aboriginal natives. It is impossible to form any correct estimate of the extent to which the trade is affected by the Maori population. The consumption of imported articles is considerable among certain sections of the race. Their production of exports is, however, very small. Presuming that every five Maoris consume imports to the same extent as two of the European portion of the population, the total trade per head of Europeans (including Chinese) would be reduced by the sum of 16*s.* per head.

The trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 8,984,658*l.*; that with Victoria to 1,821,115*l.*; that with New South Wales to 836,086*l.*; that with the United States to 261,118*l.*; that with Mauritius to 158,772*l.*; that with Tasmania to 111,366*l.*; that with South Australia to 105,271*l.*; that with China to 95,332*l.*; and that with the Pacific Islands to 133,607*l.* The balance was distributed between other countries.

The imports and exports per head of the mean population in 1876 were as follows :—

Imports.	Mean Population in 1876, exclusive of Maoris.	Imports per head of the Population.
£		£ *s.* *d.*
6,905,171	387,465	17 16 5¼
Exports.		**Exports per head of the Population.**
5,673,465	,,	14 12 10

In 1875 the imports amounted to 22*l.* 7*s.* 5¾*d.*, and the exports to 16*l.* 4*s.* 9¾*d.* per head.

Letters Received.—The total number of letters received in the various postal districts in the Colony during 1876 were—From places without the Colony, 714,034, against 699,963 in 1875 ; and from places within the Colony, 4,862,814, against 4,353,440 in

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1875; making a general total of 5,576,848, against 5,053,403 in 1875, being an increase of 523,445, or 10·4 per cent.

Letters Despatched.—The total numbers of letters despatched were:—To places without the Colony, 685,845, against 642,575 in 1875; and to places within the Colony, 5,508,044, against 4,731,873 in 1875; making a general total of 6,193,889, against 5,374,448 in 1875, being an increase of 819,441, or 15·2 per cent.

Newspapers Received.—The total numbers of newspapers received were:—From places without the Colony, 1,520,413, against 1,250,788 in 1875; and from places within the Colony, 3,341,413, against 2,775,669 in 1875; making a general total of 4,861,843, against 4,026,457 in 1875, an increase of 835,386.

Newspapers Despatched.—The total numbers of newspapers despatched were,—to places without the Colony, 515,345, against 514,239 in 1875; to places within the Colony, 2,585,560, against 2,270,581, in 1875; making a general total of 3,100,905, against 2,784,820 in 1875, being an increase of 316,085.

Postal Revenue.—The total amount of postal revenue in 1876 was 129,263*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, against 122,495*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* in 1875. Both these accounts include the sums that would have been chargeable on the franked correspondence if such had been paid for. The actual cash postal revenue for the year was 87,792*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, against a similar cash revenue of 72,113*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* in 1875.

Electric Telegraph.—The telegraph stations in the Colony, on the 31st December 1876, numbered 148, an increase of 15 on the number of stations in 1875. The number of miles of line was 3,170, against 3,156 in 1875. The number of miles of wire was 7,093, against 7,065 in 1875. The number of private telegrams was 936,469, yielding a revenue of 64,336*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, against 849,919 telegrams in 1875, with a revenue of 59,678*l.* 11*s.* The Government telegrams in 1876 numbered 164,130. The aggregate number of public and private telegrams amounted to 1,100,599, against 993,323 in 1875, an increase of 107,276.

Railways.—On the 31st December 1876 there were 718 miles 6 chains of railways constructed in the Colony, of which 171 miles 68 chains were in the North Island, and 546 miles 18 chains in the South Island. The following table shows the number of miles constructed, under construction, and surveyed at that date:—

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.—Lines Constructed, under Construction, and Surveyed up to 31st December 1876.

Description.	North Island.			South Island.			Total Colony.		
	M.	C.	L.	M.	C.	L.	M.	C.	L.
Railways constructed - -	171	68	0	546	18	78	718	6	78
Railways under construction -	162	37	50	264	68	67	427	26	17
Railways surveyed - -	113	56	50	48	5	0	161	61	50
Totals - - -	448	2	0	859	12	45	1,307	14	45

PART IV.—FINANCE, ACCUMULATION, AND PRODUCTION.

Revenue.—The customs revenue in 1876 amounted to 1,206,791*l.* against 1,234,967*l.* in 1875, being a decrease of 28,176*l.* or 2·28 per cent. The following figures show the comparative amounts realised by this branch of the revenue during the 10 years 1867 to 1876 inclusive:—

	£		£		
1867	843,997	being a decrease of	270	or 0·03	per cent.
1868	788,829	„ „	55,168	or 6·53	„
1869	823,511	being an increase of	34,682	or 4·39	„
1870	765,930	being a decrease of	57,581	or 6·99	„
1871	731,883	„ „	34,047	or 4·44	„
1872	813,279	being an increase of	81,396	or 11·12	„
1873	965,800	„ „	152,521	or 18·75	„
1874	1,188,948	„ „	223,148	or 23·10	„
1875	1,234,967	„ „	46,019	or 3·87	„
1876	1,206,791	being a decrease of	28,176	or 2·28	„

The total ordinary revenue in 1876 amounted to 2,391,344*l.*, against 2,047,234*l.* in 1875, being an increase of 344,110*l.* The ordinary revenue as above given includes ordinary provincial revenue. The territorial revenue in 1876 amounted to 1,149,622*l.*

The incidental receipts and reimbursements amounted to 39,328*l.*, thus making the general total of the revenue—ordinary, territorial, and incidental—3,580,294.

Expenditure.—The expenditure may be classed as expenditure chargeable on revenue, expenditure chargeable on loans, and expenditure of a special character charged on trust funds. It is not necessary here to deal with trust fund expenditure.

The expenditure chargeable on revenue was partly by the Colonial Government, and partly by, or on account of appropriations by, the late Provincial Governments. This class of expenditure, after deducting all transfers, Treasury bills redeemed, and bank overdrafts repaid, amounted in 1876 to the following:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
By the Colonial Government -	2,234,363	3	3
By or on account of the Provincial Governments - - -	2,070,974	7	9

Thus making the total expenditure chargeable on revenue amount to 4,305,337*l.* 11*s.* This sum does not include the same amounts twice as expenditure. The actual expenditure in services only is included.

The actual expenditure chargeable on loans, after deducting all transfers from one fund to another, and the redemption of debentures and advances repaid, amounted in 1876 to 2,066,104*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* There is not any table showing these results; they have been arrived at by a critical analysis of the tables of income and expenditure on pages 174–178, and of the provincial revenue and expenditure, pages 179–180.

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Debt of the Colony.—The total public debt of the Colony, consisting of debentures and Treasury bills in circulation on the 31st December 1876, amounted to 18,678,111*l.*; the total annual charge amounting to 1,011,152*l.* 10*s.*, of which the sum of 896,806*l.* 10*s.* was for payment of interest, and the sum of 114,346*l.* was for payment to the sinking fund. The total accrued sinking fund on the 31st December amounted to 1,289,956*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

Of the above totals, the indebtedness on account of the general Government amounted to 15,169,103*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, with a total annual charge for interest and sinking fund of 796,086*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; and the indebtedness on account of the late Provincial Governments amounted to the sum of 3,509,007*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, with a total annual charge for interest and sinking fund of 215,066*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* The total debt per head of the population, exclusive of Maoris, on the 31st December 1876, was 46*l.* 16*s.* 0¾*d.*, or considered as reduced by the accrued sinking fund, 43*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, being less per head than the debt in 1875 (after allowance for the sinking fund) by 4*s.* 1¼*d.*

Accumulation.

Banks.—The total average liabilities of the banks within the Colony during 1876 amounted to 7,221,399*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*; the total average assets to 11,776,070*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*; the total capital paid up on the 31st December 1876 to 4,826,632*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*; the total amount of last dividends to 325,500*l.*; and total amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring such dividends to 1,736,986*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

Post Office Savings Banks.—At the close of the year 1876 the number of Post Office Savings Banks in the Colony was 124, being an increase of 5 on the number in 1875. Within the year 11,255 new accounts were opened, and the total deposits to all accounts amounted to 664,134*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The total withdrawals during the year amounted to 696,281*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, or 32,146*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the deposits. The average amount of deposits to the credit of each account was in 1876, 27*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, against 29*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* in 1875. The total amount standing to the credit of all open accounts on the 31st December 1876, including interest to the close of the year, was 723,910*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

Other Savings Banks.—In saving banks other than the Post Office Savings Banks the deposits in 1876 by Europeans amounted to 116,682*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*; by Maoris to 38*l.* The total amount to credit of depositors in these banks on the 31st December 1876 was, Europeans, 181,017*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; Maoris, 218*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* The total accumulated deposits in both classes of savings banks thus reached the amount of 905,146*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, an increase on the accumulated deposits in 1875 of 7,820*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

Money Orders.—The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1876 was 80,255, against 73,027 in 1875, being an increase of 7,228. The total amount of these orders was 310,268*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, against 293,481*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* in 1875, an increase

of 16,786*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* The number of money orders drawn on the Colony in 1876 was 60,376, representing an aggregate amount of 233,130*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, against 52,575 orders, representing an aggregate amount of 212,155*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* in 1875.

Mortgages and Releases.—The total number of mortgages on land effected in 1876 was 7,198, representing the amount of 4,230,958*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; the releases were 2,995, representing the amount of 1,650,164*l.* 12*s.*; the excess of mortgages over releases amounting to 2,580,794*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* Of the mortgages, 3,156, representing a total amount of 1,930,859*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, were effected under the Land Transfer Act, and 4,042, representing an amount of 2,300,098*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, under the previous deeds registration system.

Production.

Crown Lands Alienated.—The total area of Crown lands sold during the year amounted to 497,415 acres 3 roods. The cash received amounted to 846,831*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* Scrip to the amount of 2,050*l.* 7*s.* was also received in payment. In addition, 3,897 acres 3 roods were given in payment for public works, of the value of 3,844*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, executed.

The total number of acres disposed of without sale amounted to 31,145, of which 28,951 acres were reserves for public purposes, and 100 acres were grants to natives under Native Lands Acts.

The total area alienated since the foundation of the Colony amounts to 13,644,966 acres, of which 1,371,470 acres were out of the confiscated lands. The total areas in the hands of Government open for selection on the 31st December 1876 amounted to 14,516,115, of which 13,607,412 acres were in the three provincial districts of Nelson, Marlborough, and Canterbury. The total areas in the hands of Government remaining for future disposal, but not open for selection (exclusive of confiscated lands), amounted to 18,173,397 acres. The returns of confiscated lands sold at the end of 1876, as given on page 196, do not bear comparison with similar figures published in the volume for 1875. I have been unable to obtain any satisfactory explanation of the disagreement, but the figures now published are represented as being the most reliable. It is almost impossible, from various causes, to give anything approaching to an accurate estimate of confiscated lands remaining for disposal; but, after making sufficient allowance for them, there would appear to be in round numbers an amount of about 20,000,000 acres of land in excess of the land sold and remaining for disposal. The bulk of this land is in the North Island, and may be considered to represent the unalienated native estate.

The total number of acres of Crown lands held for depasturing purposes amounted in 1876 to 14,266,292, the rents and assessments of which amounted to 118,318*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*

Agricultural Statistics.—Information is only obtained annually in respect of holdings of cultivated land of upwards of 1 acre in extent, exclusive of holdings of aboriginal natives and of gardens attached to residences. The total number of holdings thus

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enumerated in February 1877 was 18,750, against 17,250 in February 1876, an increase of 1,500. Of the holdings in February 1877, 12,293 were entirely freehold property of the occupiers, 4,640 were occupied by tenants, and 1,817 holdings consisted in part of freehold and in part of land rented by the respective occupiers.

The extent of land under grain crop amounted in February 1877 to 320,011 acres, an increase on the previous year of 33,299 acres. Of the above amount, 178,496 acres were in the district of Canterbury, and 112,732 in the district of Otago.

The proportion of artificial pasture or sown grasses to the total acreage in cultivation was, in February 1877, 90·43 to every 100 acres in the Auckland District, 95·39 in the Taranaki District, 95·76 in the Hawke's Bay District, 95·68 in the Wellington District, 78·97 in the Marlborough District, 78·81 in the Nelson District, 83·03 in the Westland District, 52·07 in the Canterbury District, and 58·64 in the Otago District.

The total extent of land under all kinds of crops, including sown grasses, and of land broken up but not under crop, in February 1877, amounted to 2,940,711 acres, being an increase on 1876 of 563,309 acres. Of this amount, the increase in the extent of land sown with artificial grasses amounted to 382,845 acres. The extent of land under wheat in February 1877 was 141,614 acres, being an increase on the extent in wheat in the previous year of 50,840 acres, or nearly 56 per cent. The estimated aggregate produce of the wheat, after allowance for damages accruing from bad weather previous to harvest, was 4,054,377 bushels, an increase on the estimated produce of the previous year of 1,190,758 bushels, or 41·6 per cent. This produce, if realised when the crop was threshed, would yield an average of 28½ bushels to the acre, or 10·2 bushels per head of the population as estimated on the 1st January 1877.

The average yield of wheat in the different districts has been returned as follows:—In the Middle Island—Otago, 30¼ bushels; Canterbury, 28¼ (the damage from bad weather in parts of this district having been considerable); Nelson, 18; Marlborough, 23¼. In the North Island—Wellington, 25¼ bushels; Hawke's Bay, 30; Taranaki, 24¾; Auckland, 24. The averages in the South Island were lower this year than in 1876, but in the North Island these averages were considerably in excess of the averages in 1876.

The extent of land in oats amounted to 150,718 acres, with an estimated production of 4,707,836 bushels, and an average acreage yield of 31 bushels. There is thus a decrease on the land in oats in 1876 of 17,534 acres, and in estimated produce of 1,649,595 bushels. The land in barley amounted to 27,679 acres, being an increase on 1876 of 23 acres. The estimated produce, however, showed a decrease of 191,840 bushels on 1876, the produce having been estimated in 1876 at 993,219 bushels, or an average of 35¾ bushels per acre, and in 1877 at 801,379, or an average of 28¾ bushels per acre. The land in potatoes in 1877 amounted

to 16,204 acres, with an estimated production of 86,922 tons, or 5¼ tons per acre, an increase on 1876 of 1,549 acres, 15,323 tons gross produce, and ½ ton of average produce per acre.

PART V.—LAW, CRIME, AND EDUCATION.

Civil Cases.—There were 1,193 writs of summons tested in the Supreme Court during the year 1876; 48 of the cases were tried before juries; the total amount for which judgments were recorded was 32,971*l.* 16*s.* 4¼*d.* The total number of civil cases disposed of in the various district courts amounted to 450; of these, 33 were tried before juries, and 265 before the judges only; the aggregate amounts sued for during the year were 43,770*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; judgments were recorded for 14,419*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.* 27,367 civil cases were heard in the various resident magistrates' courts; the amounts sued for were, in the aggregate, 324,495*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and the amounts for which judgments were given were, in the aggregate, 149,616*l.* 15*s.* 9¼*d.*

Bankruptcy.—542 statements and declarations of insolvency were filed during the year, viz., 326 in the Supreme Court, and 216 in the district courts. The aggregate amount of assets, as shown by the statements filed, amounted to 395,546*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, and the liabilities to 474,600*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.*; the liabilities having been in excess of the stated assets by 79,054*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*

Criminal Cases.—21,876 charges for various offences were brought against persons not being Maoris before the magistrates' courts in 1876. The summary convictions consequent on those charges amounted to 15,902. 409 persons were committed for trial at the superior courts. 430 criminal cases against persons other than Maoris were tried in the Supreme and district courts, the convictions amounting to 244. While the proportions to the 1,000 of population of charges and of convictions for offences against property remained almost the same for 1876 as for 1874 and 1875, the proportions for offences against the person were somewhat less; but there was in 1876 a marked decrease in the proportions of charges and convictions for other offences; these last, in the magistrates' courts, having been respectively 54·87 and 43·32 per 1,000 of the population in 1875, and 46·71 and 36·09 in 1876. As during the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, 59,082 immigrants were introduced into the Colony entirely at the public expense, it is apparent from the reduced proportions of cases in 1876 that the criminality of the Colony has not been increased by the effects of the Government immigration policy.

Of the 71 criminal cases against the person (62 males and 9 females) tried in the Supreme Court, 37 males and 1 female were convicted; and of the 260 criminal cases against property (241 males and 19 females), 151 males and 8 females were convicted. 347 criminal cases of all kinds were tried in the Supreme Court, the total convictions numbering 203.

In the various district courts there were 88 cases tried; of these, 47 were for offences against the person, the convictions

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The convictions in the magistrates' courts numbered 16,100, viz., 14,776 of males and 1,324 of females, a reduction on the convictions in 1875 of 1,058 in the number of males and 195 in the number of females. 941 males and 65 females were convicted of offences against the person, the numbers in 1875 having been 933 males and 62 females. 898 males and 92 females were convicted of offences against property, an increase on the numbers in 1875 of 173 males and 4 females. 10,839 males and 953 females were convicted of offences against good order; of these, 5,672 males and 597 females were convicted of drunkenness (a decrease of 552 on the convictions for drunkenness in 1875), and 948 males and 241 females convicted of vagrancy, the convictions in 1875 for this last offence having been 1,063 males and 281 females.

The total convictions in all the courts for offences against the person amounted to 1,075, viz., 1,005 males and 70 females. These convictions do not include convictions for combined offences against person and property where the offence against the person resulted from an attempted offence against property, as robbery with violence, &c. In the above numbers convictions of Maoris are included. In 1876 the summary convictions against Maoris amounted to 198, of which 22 were for offences against the person, 57 for offences against property, and 88 for drunkenness. 5 Maoris were committed for trial before superior courts, 2 for offences against the person, and 3 for offences against property.

Sentences of Criminals.—82 persons were sentenced in the superior courts to terms of imprisonment under 1 year; of these, 71 were males and 11 females; 1 male and 1 female were under 10 years of age, and one male was between 10 and 15 years; 39 males and 3 females were sentenced for terms of 1 year and not exceeding 2 years; 72 males for periods between 2 and 5 years; 21 males for periods of 5 to 10 years; 5 males for periods of 10 to 15 years; 5 males for 15 years and upwards, or for life; and 2 males were sentenced to death.

Gaols.—The number of prisoners in confinement in the various gaols during the year 1876 (not including those incarcerated for debt or lunacy) amounted to 5,495; of these, 4,791 were received during the year, the balance comprising prisoners in gaol at the commencement of the year.

Of the total number of prisoners received during the year 90 were Maoris.

Exclusive of the Maori prisoners and those in confinement for debt or lunacy, the number of prisoners in confinement amounted to 1·39 per cent. of the mean population, against 1·29 per cent. in 1875. 22 children under 10 years of age were received in

gaol during the year, 6 being charged with felony, 1 with misdemeanor, and 15 with minor offences. 34 prisoners were between 10 and 15 years of age, of whom 15 were committed for felony; 234 prisoners were between 15 and 20 years of age, of whom 49 were committed for felony.

Of the total number of prisoners in confinement during the year, 1,681 (viz., 1,149 males and 532 females) had been convicted before. Of these, 500 males and 73 females had been convicted once previously, 215 males and 37 females had been convicted twice previously, and 434 males and 422 females three or more times.

Education of Prisoners.—Of the total number of prisoners, 547 males and 212 females were unable to read; 310 males and 155 females were able to read only; 3,335 males and 524 females were able to read and write; and 71 males and 1 female had received a superior education.

Religion of Prisoners.—Nearly all the prisoners (94·78 per cent.) belonged to 4 denominations. These denominations, with the number of prisoners belonging to each, the proportion of such number to the total number of prisoners, and the proportion of persons of that denomination to the whole population at the census of 1874, are herewith given:—

Denomination of Prisoners.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per 100 of Total Prisoners.	Proportion of Persons of Denomination per 100 of Total Population.
Church of England - -	2,321	45·02	42·46
Roman Catholics - -	1,665	32·30	13·48
Presbyterians - - -	761	14·76	24·20
Wesleyans - - -	139	2·70	7·59

Inquests on Deaths.—546 inquests were held on deaths during the year. In 252 cases the deaths were attributed to accident, and in 17 cases (including one classified in the table as suicide) to intemperance.

Inquests on Fires.—The number of inquests on fires during the year was 61, the same number as in 1875. In 12 cases the fire was ascertained to have been caused by incendiarism. In 1875 the verdicts of incendiarism amounted to 7.

Common Schools.—The number of common schools either receiving Government aid or under the control of school boards was, in December 1876, 680, having a total of 1,321 teachers, and with the names of 51,964 pupils on the books. The daily average attendance in 1876 amounted to 38,146.

Superior Schools.—There were 4 superior schools receiving Government aid or under school boards in December 1876; 29 teachers were engaged in them. The names of 654 pupils were on the books, and the average daily attendance was 606.

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Private Schools.—The number of private schools in the Colony from which returns have been received amounted to 244, or an apparent increase on the number in 1875 of 62: the efforts to obtain complete lists and returns from these schools having been more successful in 1876 than in 1875. Of these schools, 37 were for boys only, 48 for girls only, and 159 mixed. The number of teachers at these schools was 543, viz., 155 males and 388 females, and the number of pupils was 9,357, viz., 4,475 males and 4,882 females.

The total number of schools for the European portion of the population amounted, in December 1876, to 928, employing 1,893 teachers, and attended by 61,975 pupils.

If the children at the private schools are all assumed to be between the ages of 5 and 15, the total number of children at the ages of 5 to 15 attending school would be about 60,387. It is estimated that, if the proportion of children at 5 to 15 to the whole population is the same as when the census was taken in 1874, there would have been in December 1876, 96,336 children at the ages of 5 to 15. Of these, it appears that 35,949 do not attend school; thus 37 per cent. of the children are either not receiving any education, or are dependent upon home tuition.

Revenue of Common Schools.—The total amount of rates collected amounted to 21,274*l.* 10*s.*, and the total revenue of the common schools available for the maintenance of the schools, excluding all grants for building purposes, amounted to 157,671*l.* As the highest number of children on the books of these schools amounted to 51,964, with an expenditure equal to revenue, as appears from subsequent accounts received to have been the case, the average cost for maintenance per pupil amounted to 3*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* The cost of maintenance was not uniform in different parts of the Colony, having varied from 2*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* in the Auckland District to 5*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* in the Westland District.

The cost per head for maintenance, estimated upon the average number (138,146) daily attending these schools, amounted to 4*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

Native Schools.—The number of schools established for the education of Maori children amounted in 1876 to 56, of which 5 were closed during the year and 4 were in course of erection. The number of pupils amounted to—males, 994; females, 576; or a total of 1,570; an increase on the number of such pupils in 1875 of 169. The number of instructors was 89, of whom 52 were males and 37 females. Of these, 5 males and 2 females were of the Native race. The grants by the Government on account of these schools amounted during 1876 to 8,917*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* Of this amount, the sum of 5,410*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* was for payment of salaries, and 3,507*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* for buildings and other expenses.

Thirty-one European schools received subsidies from the Government for the support of Maori pupils. 280 Maoris, viz., 160 males and 120 females—attended these schools. There was thus a total number of 1,850 Maori children receiving education in 1876.

PART VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Municipal Boroughs.

Number and Population.—The number of municipal boroughs in December 1876 was 45. It has been estimated that the population of 40 of these boroughs amounted in the aggregate to 125,352, out of a total population of 399,075. 4 new boroughs recently established did not make any return of the value of the rateable property. The returns from 41 boroughs exhibit an aggregate annual value of rateable property on the 31st March 1877, of 1,238,733*l.* 15*s.*; this, however, represents the rateable value under the Rating Act of 1876, which provides for a reduction from the real value of 20 per cent. in case of houses, buildings, and other perishable property, and of 10 per cent. in case of land. An increase, therefore, of 15 per cent. would probably yield an amount more nearly approximating to the real annual value of the property. Estimated in this manner, the real annual value of the property of these 41 boroughs would amount to 1,424,543*l.* 5*s.*

Revenue.—The total aggregate revenue in 1876 of 40 of these boroughs amounted to 178,490*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, exclusive of all receipts from loans, overdrafts, or other sources not constituting revenue. Of this amount, the rates received yielded 72,737*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, and 41,427*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* were received from the Government; 20,631*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* were received from leases and rents, and the proceeds of local licences amounted to 12,445*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

Expenditure.—The total expenditure in 1876 of these 40 boroughs amounted to 342,639*l.* 2*s.* 6½*d.*, of which the expenditure on public works amounted to 229,218*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.*, and the expenditure on account of salaries to 19,898*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, but the expenditure on special public works, &c. is included.

Road Districts.

Number.—The number of road districts and local boards amounted in December 1876 to 309; of which number 131 were in the Auckland district.

Annual Value of Rateable Property.—The estimated annual value of the rateable property within 300 of the districts amounted, on the 31st March 1877, to 2,321,636*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; but as this also represents the value for rating purposes under the Rating Act of 1876, the real value may be estimated at an advance of 10 per cent. upon that amount, raising the amount to 2,553,799*l.*

The total annual value on the 31st March 1877 of the property in 41 out of 45 boroughs, and 300 out of 318 of the road and local districts, amounted in the aggregate to 3,978,342*l.*, and, if allowance be made for the boroughs and districts from which no returns have been received, the total may be fairly estimated at not less than 4,000,000*l.*

Income.—The total revenue of 285 boards in 1876 amounted to 316,480*l.* 7*s.* 9¾*d.*; of which 195,670*l.* 4*s.* 11½*d.* was received in

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the form of grants from the Government, and 74,435*l.* 18*s.* 8¾*d.* from rates.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure in 1876 of these 285 boards amounted to 266,210*l.* 7*s.* 2¾*d.*; of which the expenditure on public works amounted to 225,045*l.* 2*s.* 3¾*d.*, and the expenditure on salaries to 18,192*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, the last item amounting to nearly 6·8 per cent. on the total expenditure.

Constabulary, Volunteers, Fire Brigades.

Armed Constabulary.—The total strength of the armed constabulary on the 31st December 1876 amounted to 610 men of all ranks, distributed over 69 posts in the North Island. There were 38 commissioned officers, 83 non-commissioned officers, and 489 rank and file; a decrease as compared with 1875 of 5 commissioned officers, 7 non-commissioned officers, and 106 rank and file.

Volunteers.—The various branches of the volunteer force gave a total strength of 6,545 officers and men, belonging to 127 corps—an increase on the number of volunteers on the 31st December 1875, of 465, the number of corps being unaltered. The totals of each branch of the force were as follow:—

—	Corps.	Strength.
Cavalry - - -	12	542
Artillery - - -	10	608
Engineers - -	2	125
Rifles - - -	58	3,129
Naval - - -	5	431
Cadets - - -	40	1,710

Fire Brigades.—In 1876 there were 28 fire brigades in the Colony, having a total strength of 90 officers and 655 men.

Representation.

Electors.—The number of persons registered as electors for the year ending on the 31st August 1877 was 61,755, equal to 28 per cent. of the mean male population for the year 1876.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. R. E. BROWN,
Registrar-General.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND from 1867 to 1876 inclusive.

Year.	Population (exclusive of Maoris).			Able to Read and Write.*	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Inhabited Houses.*	Crown Lands.			Land (including Sown Grasses) under Cultivation.	Live Stock.*			
	Males.	Females.	Totals.							Waste Lands sold in each Year.	Cash realised.	Free Grants.†		Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
										Acres.	£	Acres.	Acres.				
1867	131,929	86,739	218,668	151,431	8,918	2,702	2,050	4,859	54,015	288,917	287,416	76,743	676,909	65,715	312,835	8,418,579	115,104
1868	134,621	91,997	226,618	—	9,391	2,662	2,085	860	—	199,309	182,065	42,205	—	—	—	—	—
1869	140,112	97,137	237,249	—	9,718	2,721	1,931	3,641	—	112,211	115,941	145,449	783,435	—	—	—	—
1870	145,732	102,668	248,400	—	10,277	2,703	1,851	3,577	—	76,766	88,419	37,256	997,477	—	—	—	—
1871	156,431	110,555	266,986	173,459	10,592	2,642	1,864	4,786	57,182	92,642	110,973	123,796	1,140,279	81,028	436,592	9,700,629	151,460
1872	162,404	117,156	279,560	—	10,795	3,194	1,873	4,973	—	338,576	389,107	183,673	1,226,222	—	—	—	—
1873	170,406	125,540	295,946	—	11,222	3,645	2,276	8,811	—	786,250	980,758	484,541	1,416,933	—	—	—	—
1874‡	194,349	147,511	341,860	199,294	12,844	4,161	2,828	38,106	61,356	648,800	860,471	238,581	1,651,712	99,261	494,113	11,674,863	123,741
1875	213,294	162,562	375,856	—	14,438	5,712	3,209	25,270	—	318,682	448,697	486,335	1,943,653	—	—	—	—
1876	225,580	173,495	399,075	—	16,168	4,904	3,196	11,955	—	497,416	846,831	31,145	2,377,402	—	—	—	—

* This information has been correctly ascertained only for the years in which a census of the Colony was taken. † Including free grants to immigrants, to naval and military settlers, reserves for public purposes, Native reserves, and old land claims; but the larger portion of these grants since the year 1865 have been to Natives, under the provisions of "The Native Lands Act, 1865." ‡ In 1874 the Maori population was estimated at 45,470, making the total population in 1874, 387,330.

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1867 to 1876 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Postal.					Shipping.						Exports (the Produce of New Zealand).					
	Letters (Received and Despatched).	Newspapers (Received and Despatched).	Postal Revenue.	No. of Money Orders Issued.	Amount of Money Orders Issued.	Inwards.		Outwards.		Registered Vessels belonging to the Colony.		Gold.		Wool.		Flax (Phormium).	
						No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	No.	£		£							Ozs.	£	lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1867	4,811,240	3,060,888	55,331	24,473	115,610	944	309,568	950	308,169	366	23,240	686,753	2,700,275	27,152,966	1,580,608	126	4,256
1868	4,977,199	3,283,615	57,107	25,854	118,211	851	277,105	873	287,710	372	24,539	637,474	2,504,326	28,875,163	1,516,548	534	8,137
1869	5,016,595	3,563,147	58,007	28,427	127,218	764	250,731	771	247,764	381	25,990	614,281	2,362,995	27,765,636	1,371,230	2,028	45,245
1870	5,645,879	3,889,662	55,780	31,864	140,454	756	273,151	766	265,407	384	26,743	544,880	2,157,585	37,039,763	1,703,944	5,471	132,578
1871	6,081,697	4,179,784	70,249	36,291	157,397	729	274,643	709	265,618	371	27,107	730,029	2,787,520	37,793,734	1,606,144	4,248	90,611
1872	6,958,543	4,411,091	94,733	44,660	191,009	775	300,302	743	285,366	364	23,963	445,370	1,730,992	41,886,997	2,537,919	3,985	99,405
1873	7,915,985	5,269,195	94,706	52,351	219,258	739	289,297	704	281,847	411	30,035	505,337	1,987,425	41,535,185	2,702,471	6,454	143,799
1874	9,058,456	6,306,692	104,371	62,712	263,164	856	399,296	822	385,533	471	38,935	376,388	1,505,331	46,848,735	2,834,695	2,038	37,690
1875	10,427,851	6,811,277	122,496	73,027	293,481	926	416,727	940	417,820	502	42,025	355,322	1,407,770	54,401,540	3.398,155	639	11,742
1876	11,770,737	7,962,748	129,263	80,255	310,268	878	393,180	866	393,334	538	44,401	318,367	1,268,559	59,853,454	3,395,816	897	18,285

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1867 to 1876 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Exports (the Produce of New Zealand).				Imports.	Revenue.			Electric Telegraphs.			Miles of Railway.		Savings Banks.		Convictions.*
	Gum (Kauri).		Wheat, Provisions, Tallow, Timber, &c.	Total Value.	Total Value.	Ordinary.	Territorial.	Total for Year.	Miles of Line.	Number of Messages.	Cash and Cash Values.	Constructed.	Under Construction.	Number of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st Dec.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.													
	Tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£				£	
1867	2,685	77,491	116,834	4,479,464	5,344,607	1,225,584	561,730	1,787,314	714	87,436	14,295	—	—	6,579	156,855	240
1868	2,690	72,493	167,258	4,268,762	4,985,748	1,195,512	425,323	1,620,835	1,471	134,647	26,224	—	—	8,121	243,615	248
1869	2,850	111,307	199,357	4,090,134	4,976,126	1,025,516	382,070	1,407,586	1,611	173,746	32,649	—	—	10,103	320,383	277
1870	4,391	175,074	375,501	4,544,682	4,639,015	960,368	327,589	1,287,957	1,887	238,195	27,422	—	—	12,137	388,804	231
1871	5,054	167,958	518,871	5,171,104	4,078,193	921,672	377,699	1,299,371	2,015	369,085	37,203	—	—	14,275	454,966	180
1872	4,811	154,167	584,703	5,107,186	5,142,951	1,005,942	618,772	1,624,714	2,312	491,205	44,669	—	—	17,289	597,002	190
1873	2,833	85,816	558,459	5,477,970	6,464,687	1,487,393	1,265,788	2,753,181	2,389	637,941	55,195	145	434	21,807	812,144	189
1874	2,568	79,986	694,441	5,152,143	8,121,812	1,873,448	1,150,900	3,024,348	2,632	844,301	62,322	209	621	27,215	943,753	194
1875	3,230	138,523	519,654	5,475,844	8,029,172	2,047,234	688,722	2,735,956	3,156	993,323	74,420	542	464	30,310	897,326	257
1876	2,888	109,234	697,007	5,488,901	6,905,171	2,391,344	1,149,622	3,540,966	3,170	1,100,599	80,841	718	427	32,577	905,146	249

* The convictions to 1870 are only those in the Supreme Court. From 1871 to 1876 inclusive, the convictions in the District Courts are included.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 21.

Governor CALLAGHAN to the EARL OF CARNARVON.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
MY LORD, March 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the annual Blue Book of the Falkland Islands for the year 1877.

Revenue.

2. The revenue for 1877, exclusive of the parliamentary grant, was 3,286*l.*, being a slight increase over that of the preceding year.

Two Ordinances were passed last month, one imposing a customs' duty on tobacco, and the other doubling the duties on spirits and wine imported into the Colony, and it is hoped that before long the addition to the revenue produced by these Ordinances will amount to about 1,000*l.* a year.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure required to carry on the service of the Colony for the year only amounted to 6,266*l.*, while that incurred for the same purpose in 1876 amounted to 6,653*l.*

I may observe that the actual payments made in 1876 were, as stated in the Blue Book Report for that year, 8,119*l.*, the excess arising from the payment in the early part of 1876 of certain arrears due on account of the preceding year.

The annual amount required to carry on the service of the Colony, while the establishments continue on their present footing, may be calculated at a little over 6,200*l.*, which is a considerable decrease on the amounts annually expended previously to 1876. There are also certain retrenchments under consideration, by which, if carried out, the expenditure will be further reduced by several hundreds a year.

Imports.

4. The imports amounted to 33,283*l.*, against 27,056*l.* in the preceding year. From the following statement it will be seen that they were chiefly from the United Kingdom:—

ABSTRACT of the VALUE of IMPORTS for 1877.

Country from whence Imported.	Value of Goods Imported.
	£
United Kingdom - - -	24,733
Monte Video - - -	6,285
Nova Scotia - - -	2,265
Total value - -	33,283

Exports.

5. The precise amount realised by the exports cannot be given at present, as all the returns regarding the price fetched by the wool exported have not yet been received in the Colony. The amount set down in the Blue Book, 59,878*l.*, may, however, be regarded as a tolerably correct estimate of the value of the exports. This is a gratifying increase, as their value in 1876 only amounted to 37,121*l.*

The quantity of wool exported in 1876 and 1877 amounted to 814,687 lbs. and 1,193,759 lbs. respectively. The value of the hides exported in 1877 was 8,100*l.*, against 4,861*l.* in the previous year.

There is a falling off in the quantity of tallow exported, arising from there having been only 10,000 sheep "boiled down" by the Falkland Islands Company in 1877, while in the preceding year the number amounted to 13,000.

I am glad to observe that there is a decided increase in the value of penguin oil exported, which amounted to 1,200*l.*, against only 160*l.* in 1876. The manufacture of this oil was at one time an important industry in the Falklands, but it dwindled to almost nothing of late years. I am glad to observe even this slight sign of the revival of this industry.

There is also an increase in the value of sealskins exported, that for 1877 amounting to 308*l.*, against only 65*l.* in 1876. There is, however, no prospect of any increase of importance taking place in the sealing trade of these Islands, which for several years past has been in a very languishing condition.

Shipping.

6. The number of merchant ships that called here during the year was 31, representing a tonnage of 11,415. They were as follows:—

SHIPS ENTERED during 1877.

Nationality.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.
Great Britain - - - -	22	9,718	276
Banda Oriental - - - -	3	266	19
Germany - - - - -	1	457	13
Holland - - - - -	1	167	10
Norway - - - -	1	210	8
United States - - - -	3	597	88
Total - - -	31	11,415	414

Of these six called in for repairs. The number of ships that arrived here in 1876 was 35, representing a tonnage of 18,354.

For some years past there has been a steady decrease in the number of ships calling at this port, owing, I believe, in a great measure to causes which are referred to in my Blue Book Report of last year.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Legislation.

7. There were no local Ordinances passed in 1877.

Civil Establishments.

8. The duties of Colonial Chaplain were very kindly performed by Bishop Stirling from the beginning of the year, and for some time preceding it, until the 19th March, when the new Colonial Chaplain, the Rev. L. E. Brandon, arrived in the Colony.

Sheep Farming.

9. The returns for 1876 and 1877 of the number of sheep are 271,400 and 283,385 repectively.

I regret to say that the ravages of scab were as usual very severe during the year, more especially, I have been informed, on the Western Island. There was some improvement, I believe, in this respect on the East Falkland Island.

I am informed that "dipping" sheep according to some process or another has become more general of late years. I fear, however, judging from the results, it must be very imperfectly done. It seems to me to be very desirable to make it compulsory by law on all sheep farmers in the Colony to dip their flocks according to some approved process every year, and I believe that this measure would receive general approval.

The dip most in use in the Islands, and what is considered most efficacious, is the "tobacco dip." It is generally believed here—if this dip is prepared of the right strength and properly used—that it is almost a certain cure for scab. It is, however, very expensive.

An attempt has also been recently made to introduce the "glycerine dip," which has been used with great success for some years past by the sheep farmers at Buenos Ayres.

Mr. Cameron has kindly given me the receipt of a dip prepared from lime and sulphur which he has used very successfully at the San Carlos Station, on the East Falkland Island, where the sheep are reported to be exceptionally clean. The receipt and Mr. Cameron's remarks regarding it are as follows:—

"METHOD of PREPARING LIME and SULPHUR SHEEP DIP."

"The requisite proportions are 2 ozs. of quick lime and 4 ozs. of sulphur to each gallon of water, or 12½ lbs. of quicklime and 25 lbs. of sulphur to 100 gallons of water. Mix the lime with water in a thick paste, and when thoroughly slacked put it into the pot or boiler containing the requisite quantity of boiling water.

"The sulphur may be put into the water in a dry state at any time, but the lime must not be added until the water is boiling, and while boiling the mixture ought to be (occasionally) well stirred up; it must be kept at a slow boil for not less than one hour, and when ready for use it is thoroughly dissolved into a dark coffee-coloured liquid, and may then be used for bathing at the heat of 100 to 110 degrees.

"When the sheep leave the bath their wool is of a dark saffron colour; they ought to remain in the bath one minute. I have found it very convenient to use a try-pot (such as the sealers here use) holding about 100 gallons, and boiling the mixture in this pot at four times its strength, as the sediment might get into the corners of the ordinary square 400 gallon tanks in general use here, and would no doubt corrode the iron.

"I have this season dipped over 3,000 sheep twice with lime and sulphur liquid at a cost of 16*l.* 10*s.*, whereas the requisite quantity of tobacco would have cost me about 70*l.* sterling. The lime and sulphur dip is a certain cure for scab, and does not perceptibly injure the wool."

I have received a very strong letter from an extensive and most energetic sheep farmer on the Western Island, who has expended a large capital on his farm, urging me to introduce a Scab Ordinance and to appoint a government inspector to carry out its provisions. As the matter is at present under my consideration it would not be desirable for me to go into it further in this report than to briefly indicate some of the difficulties connected with this very vexed question.

A large majority of the sheep farmers throughout the Islands (and those who have by far the largest quantity of sheep and land) are strongly opposed to the introduction of a Scab Ordinance, chiefly on the ground of the heavy expenses which such a measure would entail, to defray which they would have to be taxed severely at a time when they are for the most part in a struggling condition. They say that when proper dipping becomes general, scab in course of time will to a great extent disappear. They also say that a Scab Act would be by no means so successful in stamping out the disease as its supporters anticipate, for the following reasons.

The farms in these Islands are generally of great extent, and the boundaries between them often extend for several miles and are necessarily all unfenced, the cost of fencing being so great as to render it practically out of the question for a long time to come. Under these circumstances it would be impossible, they say, even by the most vigorous inspection, to prevent outlying sheep from straying into neighbouring farms, and thus spreading the contagion. The sheep are generally scattered about the farms in very small flocks, some of which frequently elude the shepherds, as they would most probably the scab inspector, by hiding amongst the numerous rocks with which the Islands abound.

Moreover, it is said that the wetness of the climate here conduces to the spread of scab, and throws another obstacle in the way of effectually suppressing it.

Those who are opposed to a law on the subject are aware that it has been found necessary in Australia, but say that that is no argument in favour of its introduction, where the circumstances are so widely different as they are in this Colony, which they consider not sufficiently advanced for such legislation.

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I have never received any application in favour of a Scab Ordinance from the sheep farmers on the East Island. In fact with scarcely an exception they are opposed to it. However, in the Western Island the farmers are, I am informed, nearly equally divided on the subject, about half of them,—amongst whom the gentleman to whom I have already alluded is the most urgent—being in favour of a Scab Ordinance.

As illustrating the views of the supporters of the measure, I append an extract from his letter on the subject. After describing the present condition of the flocks in the Falklands, of which he reports unfavourably, he goes on to say that on having "an efficient Scab Act or none depends whether sheep farming "is to be a success in this Colony or not. Without it, it is "certain sheep cannot be kept clean, and if sheep are not clean, "there is no limit to the loss of wool, loss of lambs, as well as less "money value for the wool in the English market; in fact it is "destruction in every way to flocks having that disease among "them."

I think it must be admitted on all sides that scab is a formidable enemy to the prosperity of sheep farming in these Islands.

I am unwilling to offer any decided opinion on a matter now pending, and which is the subject of such bitter controversy, but I may be permitted to say this much, that the difficulty of effectively carrying out any such measure, which from its nature must be of a most stringent character, amongst a community so imperfectly organised as that of these Islands, and one to so great an extent hostile to its introduction, must at once be apparent.

I may also observe that to carry out such a measure, other government officers, besides the scab inspector, would be required. It would be altogether impossible with the present very small staff, which is barely sufficient for the requirements of Stanley, to carry out the Ordinance in the remote parts of the Eastern Island, or anywhere in the West Falklands, to get to which from here by the quickest route would take from three to four days, and in bad weather perhaps ten.

It would of course be out of the question for the contending parties to have to come into Stanley every time to settle their probably frequent contentions.

Land.

10. All the land of the Colony has been leased for some years past, and when I went round the Islands last year, which I was enabled to do through the kindness of Captain Fairfax, of H.M.S. "Volage," I was a good deal struck by the small number of people employed on most of the farms in proportion to their great extent. The number is a great deal less than one would expect to see even in a pastoral country.

I greatly fear the number of shepherds is on many farms not at all sufficient to keep pace with the increase in the flocks. If the supply of labour were not so very limited, there seems to me

to be no reason why there should not be a certain amount of tillage on every farm. This unfortunately is not the case except on Keppel Island, where I saw nearly six acres of potatoes ready for digging. Even small kitchen gardens are by no means as numerous or as well cared for as they ought to be, and I was surprised to learn that they have only recently been introduced into several parts of "the camp." To people who consume such a large quantity of animal food, vegetables may be considered from a sanitary point of view as almost indispensable.

Cattle which suffer most severely every year in the winter from scarcity of food could be fed and turned to much more profitable account if turnips, which answer very well in this climate, were grown on the various farms.

It is quite surprising, in a country where there is such a large number of cattle, that milk and butter should be so scarce as they are in Stanley and in many parts of the camp. By far the largest quantity of butter used in the Colony is imported from England, and considerably more preserved milk than fresh is used. A large quantity of cheese is also imported. The amount paid last year for imported butter, cheese, and preserved milk consumed by the small population of these Islands exceeded 2,200*l*. There does not seem to me any reason why these articles should not have been produced in the Colony.

As far as I am able to judge, I consider it is greatly to be regretted that on leasing the land some clause was not inserted in the leases rendering compulsory a small quantity of tillage for the cultivation of potatoes, turnips, and other vegetables that the climate suits, on every section of land (of 6,000 acres) throughout the Islands. I am informed that there is a good deal of idle time in the camp at certain periods of the year, which could be profitably employed in this way.

The Falklands would thus have been rendered capable of supporting a much larger population than they do now, a larger supply of working men would most likely have been attracted to the Colony, and it would not have remained so long as it has in an almost stagnant condition. By this means the scarcity and dearness of labour, which are already serious impediments to the prosperity of the farmers, and which every year as flocks increase will be more severely felt, would have been removed.

Cattle Killing.

11. I am happy to be able to report that the circular which I addressed last year to the farmers regarding the mode of killing cattle which prevailed to a great extent throughout these Islands, has, in every instance, been favourably responded to. The cruel practice of leaving the animals to linger for a day or more after they had been "cut down" has in consequence been universally discontinued throughout the Colony, and they are now killed immediately after being "cut down."

It may be of interest to describe the way in which wild cattle are killed in the Falklands, and I append an extract from a letter

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which I have received from the manager of the Falkland Islands Company on the subject. This letter was written last year, before the practice of killing the animals immediately after being cut down had come into operation on the Company's property.

"Cattle killing by the Company's gauchos is carried on principally in the summer months, when the gauchos, six or more in number, go into Lafonia with tents and move round the coast from district to district, salting the hides on the adjacent beaches, whence they are removed by schooners. The system of killing is as follows:—the gauchos leave the tents on horseback in the early morning, and keep together until they sight a herd of cattle, then getting as near as they can without being observed, they dash into them, each man selecting his animal, which he lassoes, one end of the lasso being made fast to the cincha or girth of the saddle, the other in a noose round the neck of the animal. As soon as the gaucho manages to throw his adversary by entangling his legs in the lasso, he jumps off his horse, which keeps all the time a tight strain on the lasso, and approaching from behind cuts a sinew or tendon behind the fore shoulder, which at once makes the animal helpless. The gaucho then mounts and goes after another with which he deals in the same manner, and so on, until the cattle are out of reach of the cattle on the beach.

"As a rule animals cut down in the morning are killed and skinned in the afternoon; but there is no doubt that in former years, when cattle were more plentiful, gauchos would cut down for a whole day and skin the next.

"Cutting down, even when the throat is cut the next minute, is necessary for the man's safety, for when the animal is disabled he can be killed without danger, which would not be the case had he the use of his limbs."

Keppel Island Mission Station.

12. On this subject I have received the following very interesting account from the Bishop of the Falklands:—

"Keppel Island, December 31, 1877.

"In accordance with your Excellency's wish I have much pleasure in forwarding to you the following statistics regarding Keppel Island."

"In 1855 the South American Missionary Society purchased 160 acres from the Colonial Government, and rented the remainder of the Island, about 9,000 acres, for 10*l.* a year. The object of the Society was to form a basis for missionary work among the Indian tribes in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. A training station and farm were thought desirable; and a vessel to ply between the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego, for the purpose of conveying the missionaries and their protégés to and fro, was provided.

"The Island has been of much service to the mission, although very heavy expenses were incurred during the early years of the enterprise. At present there are eight buildings used either as

residences or for school or store purposes. A barton and other suitable farm arrangements of course exist.

"The general affairs of the station are under the charge of a bailiff, Mr. Wm. Bartlett, who is married and has a family residing on the island. Two other Europeans, single men, are at present engaged in teaching and superintending the Indians who happen to be now there. These latter number 16, all young men. From the commencement of the mission about 150 natives of Tierra del Fuego have been introduced to Keppel Island. I need scarcely assure your Excellency that they have been all volunteers. The periods of their stay have varied very much, some having remained but a few months, and others two, three, and even six years.

"These Indians have been instructed in the rudiments of the Christian religion and civilisation. They have acquired, more or less, habits of industry, and have learnt to appreciate highly the advantages of civilised life. Their language has been reduced to grammatical form by the missionaries, and they have become acquainted with English to some extent.

"The farm on Keppel Island is largely indebted to the labours of these Indians, who in return are well fed and clothed and rewarded with presents; but latterly, within the last eight months, the wage system has been in some cases introduced. On returning to the country these natives have a good outfit given to them; and if they are thought likely to take care of them goats and cows are added. The consequence is that the work on Keppel Island has led to a promising centre of civilisation in Tierra del Fuego itself.

"No punishment is resorted to for the natives on Keppel Island. As I write these words I am struck by their force, but they are nevertheless strictly correct. Moral influence alone has proved sufficient. If a native of Tierra del Fuego is discontented on this island, or if he is thought unlikely to profit by the teaching and course of life here, he simply returns to his country by the first opportunity.

"The health of the Indians is fairly good. Violent headaches are common, however, and generally a strong skin eruption shows itself after a few months' residence on Keppel Island, the result no doubt of the change of diet and mode of life.

"Since the occupation of the island by the mission but three deaths of Indians have occurred there. The first was a Patagonian woman, who died of apoplexy; the second a native of Tierra del Fuego, who died of consumption after a short sojourn on the island, and the third, a Fuegian likewise, died recently from the effects of an accident in his country, aggravated here by a fall from a horse.

"I now give your Excellency a copy of Mr. Wm. Bartlett's return of produce, stock, &c.:—Garden ground over 5 acres, average yield, potatoes 30 tons; turnips (Swedish) 6 tons. Average price of potatoes sold, 11*l.* per ton. Cattle about 500; sheep about 2,800; horses 20. Value of dairy produce sold about 100*l.* a year; value

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of bacon sold about 20*l.* a year. The weight of each fleece on an average is a little under 6 lbs. The last consignment of wool weighed about 12,000 lbs., and fetched in England 10*d.* a pound.

"This return gives an idea of the present condition of things more or less correctly, but I regret to say that owing to the Island being depastured it has become necessary to reduce at once the number of the stock. But I hope to find in Tierra del Fuego an immediate opening for a portion of the cattle."

"I mentioned in an early part of this communication that the South American Missionary Society paid a rental of 10*l.* yearly to the Colonial Government. This was so until 1868, when by the advice of his Excellency the then Governor, the amount was reduced to a peppercorn for a period of 60 years. The society has appreciated very highly this gracious act on the part of Her Majesty's Government for its moral and not only material support.

"To your Excellency every member of the mission feels indebted for the generous regard you have paid to its work and interests, and I desire on this occasion to record in their name the thanks that are due for your courtesy and consideration."

The following extracts from a letter received from the Rev. Mr. Bridges, missionary superintendent at Ooshooia, gives an interesting account of the distribution amongst the Indians of the presents given by the Board of Trade, at your Lordship's suggestion, for their humane and kindly behaviour in connexion with the San Rafael disaster, to which I drew attention in my Blue Book despatch of last year.

"On Monday April 16th this distribution took place in front of our house, Messrs. Laurence and Whaits assisting. The Southerners arrived in a large body the day before. They were soon distributed as guests among the householders here. The case was brought forth into the road in the midst of the people; those who were entitled to receive being orderly seated by themselves.

"Before the opening of the case I gave the people an address commending them for the kindness they had shown to the suffering and the dead, and exhorting them to humane and discreet treatment of any strangers who might be wrecked on their shores. I told them that as the people of England now tangibly showed them their approval of their past humanity, so also could they and would they show their displeasure if they heard of any barbarous treatment by them of poor mariners who came into their power.

* * * *

"I bade them bring hither with all despatch any persons they could come across, and that they should be well rewarded according to their kindness.

"Mr. Whaits then opened the case and distribution was made, and great pleasure was shown by the people. To further increase the satisfaction I had two barrels of bread opened and distributed among the people, who numbered over 250 persons. The rest of

the day was given up to amusements, a number of kites were flown and wrestling matches were got up by the natives. In the evening Mr. Whaits showed a company of natives the magic lantern, which gave great pleasure. The weather also was most favourable, being calm and mild. In a day or two they all decamped, and since we have not seen or heard anything of them.

* * * *

"We have still on hand a few articles for some of the Southerners who did not come, and will forward them to them by the first opportunity. We had hoped to have seen them long before this, but among these natives there is much reluctance to go far from home."

In the same letter Mr. Bridges thus describes the condition and prospects of the settlement at Ooshooia :—

"Since then all has gone on peaceably, and we have no anxiety of any kind as regards the natives around us. The health of all is good, and the natives are more ready to profit by the advantages now offered them than they ever were before."

"There are here 17 natives who have allotments of inclosed lands, varying from two-thirds to half an acre pieces. These they dig and sow for themselves, and on them build their dwellings. The number of landed proprietors will now rapidly increase. Fourteen persons have possessions of goats, and the more deserving, as soon as they are ready, shall have cattle. We shall, as ever, have a busy time in our very varied occupations."

The very humane behaviour of the Indians on the occasion of the San Rafael disaster may fairly be attributed to the civilising influence of the mission, and it contrasts very favourably with the state of things which prevailed on that part of the coast before its establishment.

The perilous duty of establishing the mission at Ooshooia, in Tierra del Fuego, was performed by the bishop, then the Rev. Mr. Stirling, who took up his residence there in a hut in January 1869, and was for a considerable time left to face the dangers of his position alone.

The following instances of the exceptional dangers of shipwrecks on the Fuegian Coast before that time, arising from the barbarous inhumanity of the natives, are given on the authority of Admiral Sullivan, in one of the reports published by the South American Missionary Society:—

"The boats of the 'Beagle,' when on a surveying expedition, saved the crew of a shipwrecked vessel some distance to the west of the Beagle Channel. So great was their dread of the natives that the sailors had stockaded themselves and had prepared powder, so that they might, in the last resource, blow themselves up rather than fall into their hands."

"An English vessel bound for California ran aground on the Fuegian shore, off the Straits of Magellan, in 1853. The tide left her a mile from the shore. The natives came down in large numbers; they plundered the cargo and set fire to the ship. The

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crew fought for their lives and their ship, and succeeded in bringing her to the Falklands."

Let it be remembered that at that time the Californian and homeward bound trade passed Cape Horn, and that these disasters were not uncommon. Other and more recent cases are well known.

"In 1867 H.M. ship 'Nassau' was surveying in the Straits of Magellan; one of the ship's boats were attacked by armed Fuegians, who shot a volley of arrows into the boat's crew, and in return received a volley from the sailor's rifles, who were well armed."

The beneficial effects of the bishop's residence at Ooshooia soon began to manifest themselves. About seven months after his arrival there the natives treated the crew of the American ship "Dreadnought," which was wrecked off Cape Penas, to the north-east of Tierra del Fuego, in July 1869, kindly, not offering them the slightest violence. The crew, consisting of 22 men, besides a boy and the stewardess of the ship, were, according to the report, "thus cast away on a shore where, through the well-known "cruelty of the natives, to be cast away was death; yet to their "surprise and joy" they met with a very different reception. At the end of 17 days they were rescued by a Norwegian barque.

Bishop Stirling left this early in January last for Ooshooia, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Stirling, in the "Allen Gardiner," a small vessel of about 39 tons, belonging to the mission. He intends, I understand, travelling about in the neighbourhood, with a view to the establishment of an additional missionary station.

For several months every year the bishop spends his time cruising about in the "Allen Gardiner," visiting the southern stations of the mission, and everyone acquainted with these stormy latitudes knows that such voyages are attended with no little danger, to say nothing of the great discomfort and privations they necessarily involve.

As one who has had a somewhat varied experience in observing Christian missionary labours in China, Borneo, and on the West Coast of Africa, it is extremely gratifying to me to have an opportunity of testifying to the untiring zeal and devotion, amounting to heroism, displayed by Bishop Stirling for the advancement of the Fuegian Mission, and from all I can learn he has a most zealous and devoted assistant in the Rev. Mr. Bridges, the present missionary superintendent at Ooshooia.

Works and Buildings.

13. Considerable progress was made in the new gaol during the year, and it is rapidly advancing towards completion. A wall round it is in course of erection, which I hope will be finished before the winter sets in. The old gaol now in use is a most unsuitable building, and it is most desirable that the new one should be got ready for occupation as soon as possible.

Besides the works at the gaol, the pilot schooner, which was in an unsafe condition, was thoroughly repaired, and the roads and drains were kept in order by the prisoners.

Education.

14. I have received the following report from Mr. J. Wright Collins' the government schoolmaster at Stanley :—

"In 1876 the total number of children enrolled amounted to 127, and in 1877 to 139, the average attendance in 1876 being 71, and in 1877, 77. The improvement in the attendance has arisen in the infant department. The schoolmistress continues to conduct the infant and sewing departments, and she is entitled to much credit for the zealous and painstaking manner in which she has fulfilled her duties during the past year.

"It is satisfactory to be able to state that the behaviour of the children during last year was very good, and that there has been a great improvement in the conduct of those attending school during the last two years.

"It is to be regretted that the standard of education is still low.

"This may to some extent be accounted for from the fact that after the age of ten or twelve some of the children attend school very irregularly, more especially in peat-cutting time. When children are once temporarily withdrawn, they seldom attend school with their former regularity. Besides this, owing to the scarcity of labour, very young lads can readily find other work in Stanley, as outdoor labourers, at the current rate of wages.

"Girls also are at an early age removed from school, as their services are found extremely useful in the present dearth of domestic servants.

"Unfortunately, the class of employments in the Colony for which educational attainments are required is extremely limited, and parents as a rule do not care to provide their children with more than the rudiments of education.

"Those of the boys who do not become labourers usually find employment in the camp, which seems to have much fascination for the youth of the Colony.

"With the exception of a few carpenters and masons, few of the population are artizans, and most of these have come out from England.

"It is unlikely that the level of education will be raised until some change takes place in the general circumstances of the Colony."

Climate.

15. From January to the close of our summer in February was unusually hot for the Falklands. The winter was an especially long and inclement one. There was a great deal more frost than there has been for many years past, with frequent and heavy falls of snow. Mr. Cobb, the manager of the Falkland Islands Com-

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pany, has kindly given me the following meteorological summary for 1877:—

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY for 1877.

	Temperature.			Humidity, Saturation =100.	Rain.		Average Cloud (overcast =100).
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.		Total Inches.	Days.	
January - -	76·0	37·0	52·6	71	1·60	19	6·3
February - -	69·0	33·0	49·2	80	1·23	18	7·5
March - -	66·4	34·0	50·2	82	1·20	16	6·9
April - -	56·5	30·9	42·7	83	2·54	22	5·7
May - -	50·7	28·8	40·4	92	1·98	22	7·4
June -	48·2	25·5	37·9	94	1·78	23	7·9
July - -	46·0	18·9	35·3	91	1·57	22	8·1
August - -	49·2	25·8	37·2	88	0·90	22	6·9
September -	53·0	22·7	37·5	84	1·02	19	6·4
October - -	57·9	28·0	41·0	83	1·71	20	7·7
November -	58·8	32·6	44·9	76	1·27	17	8·5
December -	61·5	31·8	46·7	78	1·97	21	8·3
Totals and Means	—	—	42·9	83	18·77	241	7·3

General.

16. I have received the following gratifying report from the Rev. Mr. Brandon, the Colonial Chaplain, who since his arrival has done a great deal to promote the cause of temperance in the Colony. He is himself a teetotaller, and his efforts have already effected a decided improvement in the habits of the people of Stanley.

"The Stanley Total Abstinence Society has now been re-established for nearly a year. At first a large number of names were enrolled, over 70, but after a time many left the society, chiefly sailors employed in the coasting schooners.

"The society has been now for several months in what may be called its normal state, numbering an average of over 40 members, who remain true to the society; in addition, there is a floating number of some 10 or 15, who join for a time and fall away, overcome by temptation, but return again. It is considered a good step towards their reformation to keep them sober and steady even for a month at a time, for thus it is hoped to break them gradually off their drinking habits.

"The hall kindly granted by his Excellency for the use of the society is supplied with papers, books, a small billiard table, chess board, &c.; tea, coffee, &c., are sold to the members, and everything done as far as limited means will allow to make the hall attractive.

"Last winter an evening school, kindly conducted by Mr. Collins, met in the hall twice a week; it will be re-opened next month.

"On the whole, taking into consideration the many difficulties met with, the society may fairly be said to have done good work

in encouraging temperance, in keeping the young men from the public houses, and in bringing old and young into a bond of union to help and stand by one another in the hour of temptation.

"There is also a small society among the females, who join for the sake of their weaker sisters.

"The Band of Hope or Temperance Society among the children embraces a large majority of the children resident in Stanley; it meets every second month, when the children are instructed in the advantages of temperance and the evils of drink. Some amusement is also provided for them by the exhibition of dissolving views and a little music.

"This juvenile society will be, with God's blessing, the mainstay of the senior society, and will doubtless promote temperance and moderation among the inhabitants of these Islands in the future."

In my report on the Blue Book for 1876, I referred to the prospect of a manufactory being shortly established in Stanley, for converting peat, which abounds in these Islands, into patent fuel. I am sorry to say that no steps have since been taken to carry out the project in question.

I also referred to the probability of there being a steamer started to run between the Chilean Colony of Sandy Point, distant from this about 450 miles, and Stanley.

From communications received from the Governor of that Colony, I have every reason to believe that this very desirable arrangement would have been carried out early in January last were it not for the confusion and temporary paralysis of all enterprise, occasioned by the late mutiny at Sandy Point. Much sympathy is felt in this Colony for the inhabitants of Sandy Point, and for the Governor, Diego Dublé, who visited Stanley last year, in order to make arrangements for establishing commercial relations and steam communication between the two settlements.

Under the circumstances it may not be out of place in this report to give some account of this most disastrous occurrence, and I append the following extracts from the various accounts published in the Buenos Ayres papers on the subject:—

A mutiny of the entire garrison took place at midnight on the 11th November last. "The rioters began by putting to death "the commander of the garrison, but before despatching him "they submitted him to various tortures and mutilated his body. "* * * * They then set fire to the Governor's house, "the custom house, barrack, government warehouses, coal de- "posits, provision store-house, and the principal merchants' "houses."

"When Governor Dublé was aroused by the firing he sallied out of his house and found himself face to face with 100 gunners and two pieces of cannon pointed at his house. The mutineers at once opened fire, and in a few moments the Government House was in flames. The Governor had just time to get back, extricate his wife and children from a cellar where he had hid

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them, and escape with them to the forest. In an hour he returned in disguise, and mingling among the drunken savage mutineers he inquired who was their commander. A corporal replied that he was, whereupon Dublé drew a revolver and shot him dead."

The account then proceeds to detail the subsequent escape of the Governor, after he had been severely wounded, to Skyring Water, were the Chilean man-of-war "Magellanes" was engaged surveying.

"After burning, sacking, &c., the mutineers resolved to seize the first European mail steamer that should pass, and escape in her to some foreign country. For this purpose they spared the port captain, although he had been eight times taken out to be shot. As the German steamer 'Memphis' approached they put the port captain, in his uniform, in a boat with five soldiers, to surprise the 'Memphis.' The captain had fortunately obtained news from the British Vice-Consul, and at once seized the port captain and soldiers, disarming the latter and putting them in irons.

"The 'Memphis' advised the U. S. corvette 'Adams,' which hastened to Sandy Point, but found the 'Magellanes' (Captain Lynch), with Governor Dublé on board, had arrived two hours before.

"Captain Rogers at once landed 150 men from the 'Adams' with two mitrailleuses, as Captain Lynch had not sufficient force to recover the place. When Governor Dublé landed he counted 43 corpses and 13 wounded. The rebels had already set off towards Santa Cruz, fully armed, except 45, who were arrested and conveyed aboard the 'Magellanes.'"

In the course of their proceedings the mutineers set the convicts free, who joined them in their lawless proceedings. The amount of damage effected, together with the estimated value of the buildings destroyed, is set down at $319,000.

News has since been received that the mutineers who had fled to the bush were captured. They had been fighting amongst themselves, and had suffered most severely from hunger and fatigue, having been reduced to killing their horses for food.

From a discussion which took place in the Congress at Santiago on the subject, it would appear that the Chilean Government contemplates taking steps for the reorganisation of the Colony of Sandy Point, removing the criminal element, and converting it into an agricultural and industrial settlement.

I trust sincerely that these efforts may be crowned with success, and that the Colony of Sandy Point may soon enter upon a career of increased prosperity, in the benefits of which the Falkland Islands would be sure to participate.

The situation of Sandy Point right in the gangway between the east and west coasts of South America is highly favourable to its development. Unfortunately, the Falkland Islands are almost completely out of the track of commerce, and no ships except the

few belonging to the local merchants, call here, unless they are in distress or in want of provisions.

Moreover, not much progress can be looked for in the Colony until it is connected by steam communication with the outer world. There is, I regret to say, no prospect of this most desirable result being accomplished by local enterprise, the tendency of the two leading mercantile houses of the place rather appearing to be to preserve undisturbed the existing state of things, under which they have enjoyed a very profitable monopoly of the entire trade of the Islands for many years past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. F. CALLAGHAN.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

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